

THE VARIETY STAGE.

Herbert Shelley returns to London to-morrow, presenting his successful peasant Irish play four times nightly at Camberwell and Waltham Green. He has just completed a successful twenty-three weeks with Mr. Stoll.

On Boxing Day there will be two performances of the Xmas entertainment at the Royal Victoria Hall. It will be repeated each night until the 31st, when there will be a costume recital of "Faust."

London Pavilion's bill for the holidays is being largely anticipated by Daily Mirror, the Marquises, Ethel Hirschbein is contract now to the halls, Kit Keen, Russell Waller, Chris Richards, Tom Lamore, Enid Errol, and the Ellwangers.

The booking at the Empire for the Christmas holidays surpasses the records. For Boxing Night the demand has exceeded all expectations. Now, it is to be considered at, for the Christmas programme is sufficient to account for the moment.

Owing to the inability of the Committee of Preservers to bring about the desired matches between Gotch, Hackenschmidt, Lennin, and Zybaco the wrestling craze seems to be "off" for the moment. Zybaco leaves for the Continent this week.

This year's World's Fair promises to be one of the best and biggest shows ever held at the Agricultural Hall. Apart from any number of new and up-to-date sides shows, there will be numerous attractions, many of which will be new or original.

Bob Fitzsimmons (together with his wife) will make his bow as an actor to a London audience to-morrow at the Oxford. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzsimmons will appear in a piece entitled "A Man's a Man for a That." We shall see the redoubtable "Bob" in an exhibition of ball punching and general athletic exhibition.

Mr. John Lowes will produce her travesty, "Why Did Third Floor Pass?" at the Metropolitan on the 26th inst. It is in two scenes—No. 1, Outside Terry's Theatre; No. 2, A Lodging House at Camberwell. The cast engaged includes Edward Thane, Dan Curzon, Albert Munn, Sallie Harford, Daphne Williams and Jessie Lawson.

Attractions for this week at the Moss-End Empire are—Hackney: Servais Le Roy, Bosco and Talma; Holloway: Fred Hitchcock in "G.P.O." and the Scillies; New Cross: Kate Carney and Horace Goldin; Stratford: Victoria Nevin, and Howell and Scott Sheppard; Finch-Green: Astor and Co. in "Jack the Giant Killer," and George Leyton and Co. in "The Last Muster."

A real Christmas flavour will be imparted to the programme of the London Coliseum this week, when Mr. Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets from Paradise," a musical fantasy in one act, will be produced. There is plenty of variety on the bill. In addition to Eric Green, Cecilia Loftus, and Carrie de Mille, tomorrow, the Russian Giant, will appear.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has very kindly given the use of the Coliseum for Tuesday afternoon for Sir William Treloar, Bart., in aid of his Crippled Children's Fund, and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London will attend in state, together with many civic dignitaries and other distinguished people. The programme to be submitted will be comprised to be of the most remarkable gatherings of popular favourites ever assembled under one roof.

This week, prior to the production of "To-morrow" at the London Hippodrome on Boxing Day, Mr. Joseph Hart will present the "Jain-Deas." The scenes represent the Toyland, Dreamland, and "Dawn." Young in the Cornfield." Sir Leslie Cave-Browne-Cave will be retained in the bill. New turns include those of Calisto, the wire king; the Lumas, Maud Reches and her monkeys; The Huxley Brothers, the Duncans Troupe, and the Corridans.

During Christmas week there are to be several attractions at the Fun City at Olympia. The programme for the Variety entertainment includes the Eight Sunrays, a wonderful dancing troupe, introducing the Apache dance; the Herobles, acrobats from the Folies Bergères; the Chandon Trio, gymnasts; Levard, the great entertainer, etc. On Boxing Day there is to be a special matinee programme, and there will be six performances, every two hours from 12 m., including Woodward's Seals, the Breton Troupe, and Judge's Performing Cockatoos.

The pantomime of "Robinson Crusoe" will be given for the first time on Christmas Eve at the Empire Palace. On the following days, and until further notice performances will take place at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m. In the centre transept, facing the royal boxes, Mr. George O. Starr has arranged for an Old English show. This will be curtailed in and will be followed by a shorter matinee, and there will be six matinee performances for about 2,000 people. In the south nave there will be a "Teatide Fair."

The programme of attractions to be presented at the Alexandra Palace during the Christmas holidays is both lengthy and varied. First and foremost there is to be a grand circus comedy directed by Mr. W. W. W. W. in the direction of Mr. Austin Fryers. There will be daring riders and dainty equestriennes, gymnasts and jugglers, highly trained animals, and hosts of clowns, including Comical Coote, whose drolleries and witlessness will ensure an entertainment devoid of a single dull moment.

Described as a musical "aero-play," with an "Aero" and "Aerotine," Mr. Paul Hicks' "Night" is an amazing piece. "The Night" stars in "Aerotine" Miss Editha Terrell and Mr. Seymour Hicks at the Palace—their first combined visit, we believe, to the "halls." It also furnishes Miss Terrell with a couple of pretty songs, and allows Mr. Hicks ample license to frolic in his most irresponsible manner. The little play is admirably staged, and is a pleasing addition to an already attractive programme.

For Christmas week and the matinee on Boxing Day there will be a short programme at the Alhambra, London, in "Narciso"; Miss Britta, in the romantic ballet, "Paquita"; the Max Wessely Troupe, in their juggling pantomimes; the Ten JI Japanese company of magicians; the Four Black Diamonds; Harry Heine, the French vocalist; and "The Two Flags" diversions go to make up the bill. Cinematograph productions of eminent French actors and actresses will be changed. Mr. Alfred Meul presenting the third of the series, "The Red Hand."

The Christmas programme at the Royal Standard Music Hall is a long and strong one. Harry Tate in "Motoring," Will Hulme, May Mantell and the Brown and Kelly Combinations are among the prominent turns. Dally James, Margaret Hunter's sketch, "That Girl Carrie," and the three Royal Drednoughts (trifles also), were the particular stars of the past week at the Standard. Another strong card was the Empire Trio in "Park Life." They have now begun their vocal efforts are harmonious, and their play is decidedly diverting. The female impersonation and dancing of one of the trio is very good, and in each case there were unmistakable indications of popular appreciation on the part of an audience accustomed to nothing second-best.

On and after to-morrow Mr. Charles Urban will, in surrender to the ruling spirit of the season, supplement the always interesting "Urbisons" exhibition of animated pictures at the Palace Theatre by a film which may best be described as a biopic joke. Primarily representing a globe-trotter's flying trip around the world, living scenes in Switzerland and Sweden, and Norway are presented at the rapid rate of eight to ten trips seen them; steamboats arrive and depart with dramatic velocity; while a grand divine church parade depicts the rapidity of roller-skating.

LONDON PANTOMIME FAVOURITES.

THEATRE NOTES.

"Little Red Riding Hood" is due at the Dalton Theatre on Thursday. A good company and good scenery are promised, with a harlequinade.

"The Antelope," as predicated from the start, comes to an end of its brief run at the Waldorf as these lines go to press on Saturday night.

For the Christmas holiday season Mr. Brandon Thomas has arranged for a run of "Charley's Aunt" through three weeks at the Aldwych.

Miss Evelyn Millard, instead of reviving "The Adventure of Lady Ursula" for matinees only, has just decided to put the piece into the evening bill direct on January 5.

A real old-fashioned pantomime, with transformation scenes and a harlequinade, will be produced at the West London Theatre on Boxing Day. The story selected is "Cinderella."

Mr. Leonard Boyce's "Raffles" Company will make a short tour on January 5. Mr. Elsie Norwood has been engaged to play the title role, and the tour will be under the direction of Mr. Augustus Bingham.

There will be a matinee at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Boxing Day, when "The Lyons Mail" will be played for the 16th time. The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward witnessed the performance last Thursday, this being the sixth visit of Royalty to the Shaftesbury.

The pantomime at the Fulham Theatre is continuing, from a financial as well as an artistic success, as seats are being booked already for several weeks of its run. "Cinderella" is to be a clear, coherent, interesting story of the favourite fairy tale, enhanced by picturesque environment and hearty, wholesome, honest humour.

At the Lyric Theatre on Boxing Day at 2, founded on the popular subject, "Dick Whittington and His Cat." The book is by Newman Maurice; music by Frank Bradshaw. A strong company has been engaged, including Miss Maud Edmund as Dick, Miss Flora Morris as Alice, Mr. Newman as the Cook, Mr. Will Smith as Little Jack.

Mr. Waller will play "Henry V." nightly at the Lyric through the holidays, extending to the end of January, when the performances of Shakespeare's patriotic play are to be continued at matinees only. For the evening bill after January 1 a new modern piece, romantic in character, entitled, "The Chief of Staff," will be produced, for which Mr. Waller has engaged to impersonate its heroine Miss Evelyn D'Alrey.

"Dick Whittington," at the Coronet, which opens to-morrow, is to be very musical, with the first act, for the Thursday, the most elaborate and colourful of Paddington; for Wednesday, those of Kensington; and for Thursday those of Hammersmith will give civic countenance, and at the same time witness the poorer members of their respective boroughs being entertained as Mr. John Hall, Alfred Astley, and the Miller, and amiable to the public for those three evenings to allow some joy to enter into many sorrowful homes this Yuletide.

At the King's, Hammersmith, the pantomime this year promises to be more elaborate and, if possible, more successful than ever. The subject is "The Babes in the Wood." Mr. Geo. Mozart will be the very Wicked Uncle, and Messrs. Hall and Karle the particularly polite Robbers, which is equivalent to saying that the fun will be a predominant feature. Miss Marie Dainton will be the Maid Marion of the production and Miss Winnie Browne the bold Robin Hood.

The Elephant and Castle pantomime, due on Boxing Day afternoon, will be as already announced, "The Babes in the Wood," and, judging by the list of artists engaged, there is every indication that Mr. Charles Barnard's production will eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted at this popular house. Messrs. Barretts and Knowles, who last season created a great reputation for themselves in pantomime, in Birmingham, will supply the major portion of the humor of the evening, and their grotesque figures, which they will introduce, is sure to attract large audiences to the theatre.

"Votes for Women" is now the cry of the ladies adoring the stage, many of whom, backed by a considerable percentage of actors and dramatists, have constituted themselves into the Actresses' Franchise League. On Thursday afternoon the leaders, under a male president, Mr. Forbes Robertson (in the absence of their actual "head and front," Mrs. Kendall), held their first meeting at the Criterion, and to the number of nearly 600 persons, resolved unanimously "That this meeting of actresses calls upon the Government immediately to extend the franchise to women; that women claim the franchise as a necessary protection for the workers under modern industrial conditions, and maintain that by their labour they have earned the right to this defense." The vice-presidents offer a formidable array of organizations, including the Misses Violin and Irene Vaughan, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mrs. Langtry, Miss Brahma, Miss Eva Moore, and Mrs. Lucinda Ryley. Among others enrolled as members are the Misses Ellen Terry, Compton, Fanny Brough, Lilian Braithwaite, Decima Moore, Lancaster Watta. Despite its "immediate" requisition of the Parliamentarian franchise the league is not militant.

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CALL TO ARMS.

"PEOPLE" READERS
MAKE MANY SUGGESTIONS

Letters from all parts of the Empire continue to pour in as a result of "Patriot's" article in "The People," advocating a compulsory period of training for every youth.

As will be seen from the correspondence published below our readers have many suggestions in the direction indicated, some of which might well claim the attention of the authorities.

UTILISE OUR LOVE OF SPORT.

As we are a sporting nation infuse a sporting spirit into the rifle clubs. In each county let the well-to-do subscribe to local rifle clubs, as they do to boating, shows, cricket and football clubs, etc. Let the four best shooting clubs in each county compete against a neighbouring county, as far as practicable, arranging a competition among a number of villages. Similarly arrange competitions among the wards of the towns. Let Sunday afternoons, say, from 2 to 5, be used for practising purposes. In real warfare every day of the week is used for military purposes. Waterloo was fought on a Sunday. Let the two or three months between leaving school and going to Oxford or Cambridge be spent in camp.

TARIFF DOES IT.

AMERICAN WORKING MEN
AND PROTECTION.

The American working man is fully alive to the benefits he derives from Protection, and is equally familiar with the disadvantages which follow the adoption of a Free Trade policy. This has been fully demonstrated in Washington, where the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives is gathering details concerning tariff revision. Without exception the trade unions of the United States are opposed to the lowering of the tariff. The attitude of their members was well explained to the Committee by Mr. Jno. Stuart, the representative of the textile workers of Pennsylvania. He said:—"The working men of this country are intelligent enough to decide what they want for themselves, and you will not find any delegation of working men testifying that the benefits of Free Trade are such as they desire. In every instance they have pronounced for the continuation of the tariff. Here is one of the strongest arguments why. Here is an English newspaper. It contains a picture of an English working man with his tools idle. Here is 'John Bull' standing with all his goods packed up, and here you see the nations of the world building a tariff wall; and this English working man says to 'John Bull': 'They build that wall to keep you and me out and give their own working men a job. Why don't you stop the dumping and give me some work?'

"Look After Your Own Country First."

We are told we are asleep. I don't believe it. Starving people do not sleep much. I think you will find them very much awake but callously indifferent. If you wonder in the case of invasion, if the same would not be the case. Well, that is only one of two things—either to die in warfare or else of starvation. We are asked to train ourselves to protect—what? whom? We are expected to go each year into camp. But what about our wives and children while we are away? We would not get about 1,000,000 of our wives and children, and seeing that we have been living from hand to mouth previous to going into camp, can you expect us to go away and let our wives starve? And we are fortunate enough to be in work before we are told to go into camp. But we are aware that the majority of work is only casual. For myself, I do not care. But I am not going to give my services at the expense of my wife and children to learn to protect the interests of men who, while floating our dear old flag all of their ships, man them with every nationality under the sun.

J. MARCROFT.

ALL SHOULD SERVE.

Everybody should serve at least three years in the Army, rich and poor alike. First, and not till then, will the soldier be respected and looked up to, as he should be. Instead of being down on and slighted as he is at present.

ONE IN HIDING.

WANTED—MANAGEMENT.

The want of a good Army is due not so much to the apathy of the public, but to the want of government, or say management. The public are the crowd, and they general want to be told what to do, and then general want to be told more satisfaction. The men if they are left alone. In Australia the school boys are all drilled, wear khaki clothes, and carry a rifle, and are most anxious to rush off to drill on Saturday afternoons in the parks and are much better for it. But you must have interest and management.

AN OBSERVER.

CADET BATTALIONS.

At the present moment statistics will show the cadet battalions to be the finest recruiting medium for the Regular Army, both as regards quantity and quality. It is necessary to recognise the distinction between cadet battalions and school corps; the latter are principally attached to public schools; the members embrace a class that certainly would not choose the ranks of a profession, being in most cases the sons of well-to-do people. The cadet battalions draws its recruits from lads of all classes, past their school days. It is complete with officers, staff, details, band, discipline and uniforms exactly as a Terciary or battalion of the Line. It offers the lad a real taste of soldiering, and at present at least 10,000,000, like it and go direct into the Army, from slackness of work but from choice, at an age when they know their own minds. I have seen these lads return in a few weeks splendid advertisements for the Army after regular uniforms. It can be shown that these lads are a credit to the Army. Rejections are few, almost unknown. Were the cadet battalions increased in establishment to even half a million, the interest shown would probably cause a greater influx into the Army through them.

CADET BATTALION.

SOLDIERS BEFORE ALIENS.

Without going so far as Conscription, would it not be better to try some scheme to get employment for the home to England and are unable to get work, although it is not for the want of trying. This is a scouring season throughout the world will be seen ahead on the Reserve, the same as in the trooping season, and the larger part of them will not be able to obtain situations. These men enlisted when the South African War was on, and the majority had medals for the campaign. These are more than indigent. If anyone does not believe this letter, let them walk from Cambridge-Road, E. to Clapton, and see the number of soldiers' S.A. medals in pawnbrokers' windows; and I think that in the last thing a soldier would pawn. And then notice the names of other business premises in the neighbourhood, which are not English names in a number of cases, but perhaps these are only assumed names for business purposes, as at present it appears Englishmen are only wanted on special occasions, such as when war breaks out, or other small John foreigners do not care about.

REASSESSMENT, Tottenham.

30,000 LOST TO THE COUNTRY.

We cannot afford to leave things to chance as we have often done before, trusting to luck and our great name as an Empire. There are over 30,000 men able-bodied and medically fit who have been disengaged from the Colours and, however, the majority there owes its protection.

A ROYAL SUGGESTION.

Why not pass a clause in the Education Act raising the compulsory age up to which male children must attend school from 14 to 15 or 16 years, the last year or two to be spent in some form of technical or vocational training? W. LAWRENCE.

WILLING TO SERVE AT 16.

I am a discharged sergeant from an Infantry Regiment, and served 22 years 300 days. My first service was in India during the Mutiny of 1857-8. I also served in another expedition in that country. I joined a corps of Volunteers in 1863. I served for 12 years. I was discharged on the age limit, and was asked if I was willing to serve if called in for home defence. I agreed to do so. Although in my 70th year I am still able and willing. Let others do likewise. URGENT.

TURKEY'S NEW ERA.

PARLIAMENT OPENED BY
THE SULTAN.

The new era in Turkey has been inaugurated by the Sultan amid scenes of great rejoicing. His Majesty quitted Yildiz Kiosk in a state coach, accompanied by Ali Djevad Bey, First Secretary of the Imperial Chancellery, and proceeded to the House of Parliament for the opening ceremony. His Majesty was loudly cheered by immense crowds along the line of route. The new Parliament meets in the same Chamber where Midhat's short-lived Parliament assembled 32 years ago. The building faces the square of St. Sophia. The hall is on the first floor, and is of moderate dimensions. The Sultan reached the Chamber at one o'clock and entered the Imperial box, where he stood during the ensuing ceremony. The deputies also standing.

THE ROYAL SPEECH.

The Speech from the Throne was read by Ali Djevad Bey. It expressed his Majesty's pleasure at restoring the Constitution, and referred with regret to Bulgaria's "deviation from the path of loyalty." Regret was further expressed at Austria Hungary's "illegal move in proclaiming the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina." The hope was expressed that with the help of the great friendly Powers these questions would be favourably and peacefully settled. In referring to the Budget, the Speech stated that the strengthening of the army and navy will occupy the magistracy. This request was communicated to Dr. Nelson, who asked

the most serious attention of the magistracy.

10 ENGLAND ASLEEP?

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CELLAR MYSTERY.

REMARKABLE MURDER STORY.

PRISONER ACQUITTED.

The full story of the Bootle cellar mystery was told at Liverpool Assizes, when John Trench, 21, sculler, was charged with the murder of a boy, named Thos. Foy, in Bootle between Oct. 24 and 26. Mr. Hope, prosecutor, and said the circumstances were of such an extraordinary nature that they would require most careful consideration. Mr. Hope pointed out that the boy was last seen alive some time between 10 o'clock and half-past 10 on the night of Saturday, Oct. 24, and that he was then in company with a prisoner, who purchased two pork pies at a shop and gave the boy one. Between a quarter-past 10 and 10 o'clock that night a man named Nolan, Peter Foy, and prisoner were drinking together at a place called the Old Toll Bar, when prisoner went out. The suggestion was that he went from there to some place where the boy was, and that they went from there to the shop where prisoner purchased the pork pie. Foy and Nolan were going up Lyons-st. about 11 o'clock, when they met Mrs. Foy, who told them that the boy Tommy was missing. The young men then went in search of the missing lad. It seemed that when Nolan and Foy were returning from their fruitless search, some time near 12 o'clock, they heard sounds of singing in the upper rooms of No. 71. Those rooms were occupied by a family named McGuirk. The two men stood listening for a short time, and then their attention was called to some sounds they heard coming from the cellar directly underneath the room in which the singing was going on. They heard sounds of moaning, and then sounds of what they called snoring, as though someone had placed his hand over the mouth of some other human being. Nolan kicked the boarding on the window, with the object of disturbing whoever was in the cellar, and then he said, there was the sound of scuffling.

FUGITIVES AT Bootle.
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Curious Statements.

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Prisoner's Story.

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The Empty Coffin.
"I told Mrs. Foy, prisoner went on, that I heard one of Monteith's girls were dead—Ladies."

shouting out that the child was found cut up in a cellar. Mrs. Foy then said to me, 'There is someone trying to have a lark out of you' and she began to laugh."—Prisoner was then cross-examined as to his statement that, when in company with Peter Foy and Nolan on the Saturday night, he saw Tommy Foy with two foreigners, he said he did not know whether Peter Foy was the boy.—Had he the same opportunity of seeing him as you had? Yes.—Prisoner also said the boy was sitting on a sofa during the trouble between the woman and the two foreigners, and afterwards he was sitting on the knee of one of the foreigners.—Did Nolan or Foy see him? Yes.—Did not one of them tell him to go home? Peter Foy told him to go home.—Questioned as to the coat which was found wet when the detective arrested him on the Monday, he said he washed it on the Friday before the Saturday on which the murder was committed. He wore it on the Saturday night.—In reply to his lordship, prisoner said the empty cellars in Lyons-st. numbered about 200. People used them, and women went there—This closed prisoner's evidence.

Only Circumstantial Evidence.
—Peter Foy, recalled, said he saw the two men having a row with a woman, but it was earlier in the day. The men were Londoners. It was earlier in the day than the time stated by prisoner.—Mr. Gridright urged upon the jury that there was nothing to connect prisoner with that horrible crime. Nothing had been brought against him but circumstantial evidence. The suggestion that the boy had been murdered might, he submitted, have arisen in this way: It was not so long before that Madge Kirby's body was found. Public excitement was intense. Her body was found in a cellar, and if people were talking about Tommy Foy being missing, was it not likely that somebody might have said, in a callous way, or meaning to be facetious, that Tommy Foy was cut to pieces in a cellar.—His lordship said that if prisoner had given what they believed to be a credible explanation for stating that the boy was lying murdered in the cellar the case against him was at an end. It was difficult to understand—if prisoner was really guilty—why he should say that he heard news of the murder shouted out by a female in the street, excepting for the fact that murderers were always abnormal and peculiar, and did unexpected things. If he had been in the cellar the previous night, and awoke the next morning with this on his mind, and then heard the voice ringing in his ears, it was possible he might have jumped to the conclusion that the voice had been crying out.

The News of the Murder.

His lordship said that to his mind it was scarcely conceivable that there was a female voice crying out that the boy was found murdered, for if that had been the case one would have expected to have heard that the street was at once in uproar, but there was no evidence of that. His lordship, proceeding to deal with the evidence of the prisoner, said the real difficulty with it was that it had been kept back to the last. If the story told that day had been told before the magistrates there would have been means of getting it confirmed, and means of getting it refuted if it were untrue. There was a strong temptation to prisoners and legal advisers who suspected the guilt of their clients to keep back a prisoner's evidence, and so get an opportunity of concocting a story which would fit in as far as possible with the evidence against him. That fact made the new system of permitting a prisoner to give evidence quite so satisfactory as it otherwise might be. It was a strong circumstance in prisoner's favour that no bloodstains were found upon him or his clothing. The prisoner's statement that he left the boy outside the work shop appeared quite sensible. The jury then retired to consider their verdict. On the jury returning into court, after an absence of two hours, the foreman announced that they found the prisoner not guilty. Trench was then discharged.

BURGLARS CAPTURED.

WHY THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR SMILED.

A story of the adventures of a barrister with two burglars was told when Fred. Smith, 45, solicitor, and John Henry Simpson, 26, clerk, were charged with burglariously entering 16, Mincing-lane, selling and stealing articles to the value of £1 2s, the property of Mr. G. Taylor, member of the Middlesex County Council.—Prisoner referred to the breach of promise suit in his examination of Mr. White. "You corresponded with this woman and wrote her love letters," he said.—Debtor: No, not love letters; ordinary letters.—Official Receiver: You signed them "With love." From your affectionate Tom.—Debtor made no response.—Official Receiver: She brought an action against you and obtained judgment for £250 as damages and for money lent. I did not know the trial was taking place.

WARSHIP MISHAP.

TORPEDO BOAT FAST ON THE ROCKS.

Another torpedo boat has come to grief off the Isle of Wight. In the course of some manoeuvres on Wednesday night Torpedo Boat No. 6 went ashore about nine o'clock at Bembridge Ledge, on a rock locally known as Sharp Ash, which is pinnacle-shaped and very dangerous. A rocket was fired, and a quarter of an hour later the Bembridge lifeboat went out to give assistance. The crew found the torpedo boat in a serious position. The lifeboat stood by her for some time, and other boats arrived, including a gunboat. The waves were washing over the torpedo boat, and just after midnight the commander and crew were transferred, amid scenes of some excitement, to another torpedo boat by the lifeboat, which then returned to Bembridge.

How It Happened.

A flotilla, numbering six vessels, had gone out for night manoeuvres on Wednesday, the object of these being to attempt to penetrate Spithead Roads by creeping along the island shore under the lee of the shore batteries. The night was intensely dark, and all six vessels had their lights out. The unlucky little craft, which is of only 60 displacement, appears to have gone too close in shore, and struck the Fastnet point of the dreaded Bembridge Ledge—a line of rocks almost uncovered at low water, which projects seaward from the Wight shore towards the main approach to Spithead. The

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE CONDUCTOR.

Some interesting statistics have been published of the consumption of drink in the principal London clubs. They are, unfortunately, not so complete as they might be. Only one of the Service clubs appears; and of the great political clubs, the Carlton is absent, and so is the Junior Constitutional. But, so far as it goes, the list deserves study. In point of expenditure the Constitutional stands first with a bill of over £2,000 a year. But then we rub our eyes and perceive with astonishment the National Liberal coming in an excellent second with a total of £1,900 odd!

The amount of liquor consumed per head per annum is, however, the true test, not the yearly expenditure. In that respect the Junior Carlton stands first, since on the average each member consumes 77s. 5d. a year. But next come the members of the Reform Club, a Liberal institution, with 56s. 9d. a-piece to their credit or discredit. Moreover, there is precious little to choose between those who frequent the Constitutional and those who use the National Liberal, the figures being 23s. 5d. per member and 31s. 4d. respectively. The "gilded popinjay" of the Army and Navy Club—*to use Mr. John Burns' impudent phrase*—drink exactly as much as the Constitutional, and only a very little more than the sanctimonious members of the National Liberal.

All this shows what precious humbug it is that Radical legislators should pretend to reform the country, when they are just as fond of a bottle of wine or a whisky and soda as their neighbours over the way. But the statistics also tell another story. Sir Francis Doyle once observed that the poet Wordsworth's standard of intoxication must have been miserably low. If the ancestors of the present generation of London clubmen could come to life again they would say that the present standard of consumption is miserably low. Take even the convivial Junior Carlton, and reckon a bottle of claret at 2s.—a very low figure—and a whisky and soda at 6d. What is the result?

Why, the average member drinks the very moderate amount of about 20 bottles of claret a year, or 156 whiskies and sodas. But if champagnes and vintage wines were brought into the calculation, the consumption would be much less. The "temples of luxury and ease" are not, then, the vicious and intemperate resorts that Radical oratory pretends them to be. They err, if at all, on the side of sobriety. In company with the rest of the community they are drinking less and less every year; and, as with the principal London hotels, their profits on liquor are not 20 per cent. of what they were within the memories of those still alive.

THE ACTOR.

It is pleasant to note how Mr. H. B. Irving's season at the Shaftesbury Theatre, arranged at the outset for six weeks, has been prolonged by an extension of the tenure to three months, not expiring until the end of February. The popular appreciation of the great advance of the young actor in his art while on tour since his last appearance in London is of good augury for his establishment before long as a permanent West-End manager, in which capacity he bids fair to hold the same position relatively to his famous father that the younger Keen did to the elder.

A singular coincidence regarding the two most eminent actors of the time in which each of them lived, Edmund Keen and Henry Irving, is that they both died in harness, under conditions virtually identical. Keen was stricken down while playing Othello to his son's Iago; and Irving, as Becket, just as suddenly collapsed upon the stage, uttering the martyred Churchman's historic words, "Into Thy hands, O Lord—into Thy hands."

At the Actors' Benevolent Fund annual banquet last Sunday, the after-dinner speeches told well for the leaders of the stage as orators in their persons. Mr. Cyril Maude, presiding, gave sparks of honest wit mingled with pathetic pleading for the good cause, and Sir Charles Wyndham, with his wonted flow of humour touched with genial satire upon the universality of the drama. Mr. Sutro, in replying, was less happy, because more assertive in insisting upon the great merits of certain playwrights dealing in education, free love, and suicide, and denouncing the Lord Chamberlain's official reader for refusing to license these plays. It is well to note that, as related in the Press reports, Mr. Sutro's speech was punctuated with critical oaths.

The Shakespeare Memorial Committee, albeit silent for some time past, has not been idle. The two sub-committees have, at their weekly meetings through the autumn, drafted a plan for a National Theatre, to be musical world of England hence it



act forth at a public meeting to be held soon after Christmas.

That reminds me that nothing has been heard for a long time of the memorial statue of Sir Henry Irving, a site for which was granted by the Westminster County Council on the vacant triangular space in the Charing Cross-road, opposite the Garrick Theatre.

The proposed Society of Dramatic Authors has fallen through. Its intending members, however, will, it is understood, join the Society of Authors. But as the dramatists as a body stand committed to a movement in favour of the abolition of the censorship of plays, I cannot see how the general literary association with which they seek an alliance can be expected to assist them in their crusade against the licenser of plays.

"Dot," at the Comedy, comes to the end of its run on the current Saturday, after which Miss Marie Tempest will take a rest, giving her leisure to study the name part in Mr. W. S. Maugham's new comedy, "Penelope," to be produced early in the New Year.

Major Drury, one of the authors of "The Flying Lieutenant," has gone off to India to get the requisite local colour for the play he is writing for Mr. Cyril Maude.

The Rev. Stewart Headlam, as a member of the London School Board, does no good to its children in advocating, as he did at a discussion of the Playgoers' Club last Sunday, that as part of their educational course the youngsters should be taught to act and prompted to give performances. The poor little scholars would not doubt like such lessons, but the result would be that, fascinated by the glamour of their own impositions and the vanity of displaying them before friends and relatives, they would be able to give their minds to nothing else. Children can find their own play, but they have to be taught to work to help them get their living.

PIPER PAN.

The autumn concert season just ended has been one of the busiest on record, although no great musical event marked it until Sir E. Elgar's new symphony proved a triumph for himself, and added lustre to British music. In fact, in spite of the activity shown, I do not remember a duller round of concerts, recitals, etc., than that associated with the past three months. Of course, there have been some notable exceptions, but they were in the minority. I hope that when the season reopens early in the New Year concert-givers will endeavour to arrange more interesting, original, and stimulating programmes, otherwise they will find that the big orchestral and choral societies will again monopolise music-lovers.

By-the-bye, I see that the Sheffield Choir has been engaged for the performance of "The Messiah" at Queen's Hall on New Year's Day. The assistance of this famous body of singers ensures a fine rendering of the choral numbers in Handel's great oratorio. Their singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" alone is worth being present to hear. The soloists will be Madames Percival Allen and Maud Wright; Mezzo. George Ellice, Frederic Austin; and Mr. H. J. Wood conducts. Altogether an attractive evening programme for the first day of 1909.

The demand for Sunday concerts has extended to Canterbury and Salisbury, where, in spite of great opposition from stern Sabbatarians in the Cathedral cities, Mr. T. Arthur Russell has been persevering in his efforts to provide similar entertainments to those popularised in London by the National Sunday League Society. The programmes comprise, at present, a more quasi-religious selection of pieces than prevail here; but Mr. Russell does not despair of introducing more variety into them by degrees. I do not think the objecting section of Canterbury will keep up its hostile attitude much longer, as the Mayor and Corporation of that City have attended one of the concerts.

What a wonderfully quick climb up the ladder of fame and success is that achieved by Mr. John McCormack! Two years ago he was almost unknown. Now I note that his engagements extend well into 1910—and in such famous places, too. The San Carlo Opera, Naples, the Manhattan Opera, New York, and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, all claim the gifted young Irish tenor's services for various periods during the next few years. At present he is fulfilling one of the most successful provincial tours ever known, and winning over as well as artistic popularity. Like most Irishmen, Mr. McCormack is a most entertaining and genial companion.

Speculation has been rife concerning the cast for Dr. Naylor's prime opera, "The Angelus," on its production at Covent Garden next month. I am glad to find that the opera syndicate has selected only British artists for an occasion so entirely associated with native music. The singers are all eminent in their profession, which ensures an excellent vocal rendering of "The Angelus." Some of them are also well acquainted with the lyric boards. Those that are not are receiving such splendid stage coaching at Covent Garden that any inexperience will doubtless be overcome.

I think there is no doubt that Dr. Naylor's work will be produced with every possible care to ensure its success. And how intensely all the difficult scenes of coal are left, when all the clay has gone, our great grand-

children will wonder at the folly of a nation which prided itself upon its wisdom in selling its national irreplaceable capital in order to save 5 per cent. in the price of things it could have made without depleting its own raw materials.

In conclusion, he points out: "Sixty years ago England held the leadership in most branches of industry, since then she has ceded much to America and some to Germany, and now she cannot be the leader, but may be a leader." Ominous words: "A leader, one among many; and yet 'Nothing has changed,'" said J. M. Robertson, to which the Professor adds: "England's export trade is not increasing as fast as that of Germany and America."

Take the following illustration from the imports and exports of scientific instruments. In 1907 we sold to Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, and U.S.A. £261,000 worth, and bought from them £1,030,100 worth, nearly five to one against us. From neutral markets we bought £2,300 worth and sold them £194,300, and from the Imperial markets we bought £1,300 worth and sold them £431,300 worth. Here, as in all my other illustrations, we see that foreign tariffs protect their markets, while free imports kill our production, and that our best market is easily that of our own Colonies. In this industry 75 per cent. of the cost is for wages so that out of nearly £1,000,000 in wages £200,000 was received from us by foreign workers, and only £200,000 by us from foreign countries. What do our surgical and other scientific instrument makers think of such a product of Free Import and Taxed Exports?

Speaking recently at a meeting on Socialism I was heckled on the Socialistic nature of the Post Office, and after demonstrating how little the State had to do with the transmission of our letters, and how at almost every step it had to rely upon private railways, carriers, etc., I was asked in what then is the Post Office Socialistic? Before I could reply a well-known figure in the political world cried out, "Only the uniforms!" The answer was so pat that I thought it worthy of recording. Although, when we think it over, it is not in their utility as clothing, but only in their representative symbolism that even the uniforms are State, their production (very often in a sweatshop) is due to private enterprise, and therefore cannot be claimed as Socialistic.

Mrs. Carrie Nation, the saloon-smasher, has arrived in Glasgow, and, judging from her experiences, the certificate she gives to Glasgow's drinking habits, contains small cheer for those who desire to make us all sober by Act of Parliament. "I have seen more poverty-stricken women with babes in their arms in two days in Glasgow than I saw in America in all my life. It is perfectly appalling to see these women drinking in Glasgow." The Glasgow woman may not like this testimony to the degradation of their women, but, although it may be much exaggerated, it contains too much truth to form very pleasant reading, and yet they have Sunday closing, are open only from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. other days, and have no singing or music to entice and entrap the public into entering or remaining in their public houses. The moral being that it is not the public-house, but the debased habits of a certain portion of the inhabitants which are at fault.

On page 6 he tells us that our arts and resources of production have become the common property of the Western World, and in many cases they have developed them faster than we have, Germany being now abreast of us in steel, which is the master of the world. Much of this improvement abroad is due to the fact that, while 30 years ago a British workman could produce 50 per cent. more per hour than a German, to-day the difference is small, and one cause of this levelling up of productive ability is due to her protection of weak and new industries. One charge hurled by him at Cobden and his school is that they gravely misjudged the needs and possibilities of new and backward countries, and failed to realise that these countries got little consolation from knowing that other countries could supply all their needs. Hence, the protective policy they adopted in order to supply their own manufacturing needs and so to independent of the industries of Free Trade Britain.

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Now it is ungrounded; to export 50,000,000 tons of coal and £50,000,000 of clay may pay the present generation, but a hundred years hence, when only the inferior and more difficult seams of coal are left, when all the clay has gone, our great grand-

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MURDERED BANKER.

ACCUSED SENTENCED TO DEATH.

REMARKABLE STORY.

No case at the Central Criminal Court has attracted so much attention as that in which Jas. McDonald, aged 21, is indicted for the wilful murder of Frederick Georg Wilhelm Maria Julius Schlitte, who was a member of the firm of Cartmell and Schlitte, foreign bankers and money-changers, of 84, Shaftesbury-avenue. Although prisoner has been known as "McDonald," when the case was opened it was stated that his correct name was John Edmund Murphy, and that he had been trained as an electrical engineer. In addition to the charge of murder he was indicted for wounding Geo. Thos. Carter, a carman, and P.C. Albert Allan Howe. Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Graham Campbell appeared to prosecute, and Mr. H. Bodkin Atkinson and Mr. G. W. H. Jones defended. Mr. Bodkin explained at length the circumstances that led to the death of Mr. Schlitte, who, he said, was about 47 years of age, and a man of great stature, being over six feet in height. He described the situation of the shop in Shaftesbury-avenue, pointing out that in the window were exhibited banknotes and gold.

WHAT WAS THE MOTIVE?

He added that when the tragedy occurred a sum of between £1,500 and £2,000 was upon the premises. Prisoner had been living for some months before Nov. 7 in London, but had been out of employment during that time, and earned no wages. He occupied a single room in Shoreditch-st., Paddington, paying £1 a week rent. He had told Mrs. Grimes, in whose house he lived, that he was "hard up." The prosecution submitted, "Mr. Bodkin added, "that from motives of robbery the prisoner committed, on Nov. 7, a murder against your Mr. Schlitte, from which he died two days later."

WORKERS' DISPUTATION.

Mr. Bodkin next read to the jury the deposition made by Mr. Schlitte, who said:

"I saw prisoner levelling a revolver at the door, I saw him shoot, and the bullet went into the meat. He fired at me without my saying or doing anything to him. I have never seen prisoner before. I received six or seven shots with a knife. The prisoner did it. I cannot remember his name. The prisoner asked me for money. I told him I had no money. I gave him about £20 or £25 when prisoner came to me. Mr. Calderwood, manager and confidential clerk to Messrs. Cartmell



JAS. MACDONALD.

and Schlitte, described the disreputable condition of the office on his return after dinner, and had been abominated. He also proved finding the murderer. He said he had no reason to think that anything was taken from the shop.

GUNNING IN A TAXI.

The defense was that he was subject to epilepsy, and a deposition made by his sister, in which she said he was to his family an abomination in India, where he was born, was read. Miss Julia Lynn, a young woman, was called to give evidence as to prisoner's behaviour. She was the sister of Mr. Carter, who was staying at her flat in Maida-vale for about a week. She said she knew him there, and had observed that his manner was peculiar. On one occasion she found him sitting alone with a raver in his hand. On being awakened he behaved in a most violent manner, and afterwards walked into the street. When she afterwards found prisoner lying unconscious on the pavement, she drew him upstairs, and he slept on the floor of the dining-room until four o'clock in the morning. When he awoke he said he had no recollection of what had occurred, and added, "Don't take any notice of me; I know I am strange at times."

A HANOR IN THE POCKET.

On another occasion she found a note in prisoner's pocket, and he said he was going to the West-end, where he would find his sister, and his wife and her life and his own. Whilst under cross-examination witness was moved to tears, and in consequence of her outburst the judge suggested that she should go outside the court for a time. But she declined, and proceeded with her evidence. She added that it was after midnight when she and Mrs. Carter returned, and found prisoner under the bed. The deposition of Mrs. Kathleen Carton of Maida-vale, was next read. Referring to prisoner, Mrs. Carton stated that he had been very drugged since he had typhoid fever. He had had a stroke, once at school, and once at home. The jury were told about 25 minutes considering their verdict, and found prisoner guilty. Before the sentence of death was pronounced, prisoner said:

ISLEWORTH MURDER.

The High Sheriff for Middlesex has fixed the execution of Daniel Burke, who was sentenced to death at the Old Bailey Session for the murder of a woman at Isleworth, for nine o'clock on the morning of Jan. 3, at Pentonville prison. Burke's appeal before the Court of Criminal Appeal on Friday was unsuccessful.

LADY RUSSELL'S WILL.

Mabel Edith, Countess Russell, of Bray Lodge, Bray, Berks, who died on Sept. 22 last, was married to Earl Russell in 1880, and who had frequently appeared in litigation, left estate valued for probate at £222,600, with net personality £11.

His lordship remarked that what he had stated should be forwarded to the proper quarter.

PEER AND CABMAN.

SEQUEL TO A RIDE IN A TAXI-CAB.

Lord Abinger, of the Carlton Club, Pall-mall, was summoned at Marlborough-st. by Jas. Hy. Green, a cab-driver, for a fare of £1, and for making use of certain threatening, abusive, and insulting words. Lord Abinger answered the summons in person, and was also represented by Mr. Bodkin. The cabman said he drove a taxi-cab, and at about three o'clock on the afternoon of Dec. 3 he took up Lord Abinger at the Carlton Club with another gentleman. Lord Abinger told him to drive to Gloucester-gate; he hesitated, and his lordship said: "Gloucester-gate. Don't you know Regent's Park?" When he attempted to turn, Lord Abinger, putting his head out of the window, again used offensive language, saying that Green should not drive the taxi-cab.

THESE TWO BLACKGUARDS.

Witness would not like to say that his lordship said anything further until his (witness) pulled up and called a policeman, whom he asked to "take these two blackguards out." Lord Abinger and the other gentleman got out, and he asked for his fare. Lord Abinger said, "No, summan me." He gave his name and the name of the other gentleman was Lowther. Cross-examined, witness said that they did not at once tell him on getting into the cab to drive to Gloucester-gate via Albany-st.; if that had been said he would have known which Gloucester-gate was meant. Lord Abinger gave evidence, in the course of which he said the cabman turned to get into the line of traffic on the north side of Pall-mall. He turned perfectly carefully, but when "in the straight" he began going too fast. Neither he nor Mr. Lowther spoke then.

DANGEROUS DRIVING.

As they approached Regent-st., the driver took the cab near the kerb, and a foot-passenger jumped from the road on to the kerb in crossing. Near the Caledonian Club Mr. Lowther tapped the window with his stick, and said, "Tell him to drive more carefully." Witness leant out of the cab and said, "Drive more carefully." The cabman turned to the right, however, missed a chance. Play was of a rather scrambling nature, but for this state of things the adverse conditions were chiefly responsible. The kicking, however, proved fairly good and the tackling creditable. Tarr at first was the best, and then Mandible, but faultily, a reasonable opportunity of scoring came to nothing. Another loose rush by the Southern forwards compelled their opponents to touch down, but the play was still in progress. Play was again very difficult to handle. The kicking, however, proved fairly good and the tackling creditable. 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THE HOUSEKEEPER.

Calf's Head Pie.

Stew a knuckle of veal till tender, with two onions, a faggot of herbs, blade of mace, and six peppercorns, in three pints of water, and when done set aside with the bones in it to simmer, removing sufficient meat to form into balls. Par-boil a calf's head, and cut the flesh into square bits; put a layer of ham in slices at the bottom of the dish, then some pieces of the head well seasoned with pepper and salt, first fat and then lean, and hard eggs cut in half, alternating until the dish is full, but not too closely packed. Put a little water and gravy into the dish, cover with a tolerably thick crust, and bake in a slow oven. When done, fill up with gravy, but do not cut till quite cold. Some persons add oysters and mushrooms, and eat the pie warmed instead of cold.

Cheap Soups.

Soak a quart of split peas for a day in cold water, then put them into a saucepan with two gallons of water, 2lb. of cold boiled mashed potatoes, a bundle of herbs, and some salt, pepper, and sliced onions. Boil gently, covered, for five hours. Another recipe is 2lb. shin of beef, 1lb. of barley, some chopped parsley, two sliced onions, and salt and pepper to taste. Cut up the meat and add a gallon of water; boil from four to five hours. Any vegetables left from the previous day may be added.

Plum Porridge.

An old-fashioned country dish, made by boiling 2lb. of shin of beef for two hours in a quart of water, then adding another 2lb. of meat cut small. Soften the crumb of half a loaf of bread in some of the liquor, beat it smooth, thicken the soup with it. Then add 2oz. stoned raisins, 2oz. prunes, 3oz. currants, nutmeg, salt, and pepper. Boil until the prunes are soft.

Mincie Pie.

Pick two handfuls of parsley from the stems, and take a handful of spinach, two lettuces, some mustard and cress, a few leaves of borage, and a little mint. Wash and boil them for a few minutes, then drain, press out the water and chop small. Make a batter of flour, two well-beaten eggs, and a pint of milk, and pour it over the herbs. Cover with a good crust and bake.

Pie Flockie Cockles.

Boil the cockles with a little salt, remove from the shells, and save the liquor. Add to the latter about a third of vinegar, and boil up with cayenne, white pepper, and a blade of mace. When cold pour over the cockles. If more vinegar is used, the cockles will keep longer.

Spinach and Eggs.

Pick and wash the spinach very clean, put it into a saucepan with a pinch of salt, cover it close, and boil till tender, shaking the pan occasionally. In another pan poach some eggs for three minutes. Meanwhile pass the spinach through a sieve, then place it on a dish over a pot of boiling water to keep hot. When ready, place the poached eggs on top carefully, and serve with melted butter.

Derbyshire Bread.

Rub 1oz. of butter into 4lb. of flour and add four well-beaten eggs, a pint of milk, and a tablespoonful of yeast. Mix into a paste, make into rolls, and let them stand for half an hour before the fire to rise. Then bake them. Next day, dip them in milk and stand them before the fire in a Dutch oven for 30 minutes.

Vanilla Cream.

Boil 1oz. of butter into 4lb. of flour and add four well-beaten eggs, a pint of milk, and a tablespoonful of yeast. Dissolve 1oz. of isinglass in a pint of water, mix with the vanilla and milk, and add a pint of cream. Stir till the butter is melted, then pour into a wet mould.

Another Plum Pudding.

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THE HOME PAGE.



DRESS.

The vagaries of fashion that admit of the wearing of a skirt of one material and coat of another, fall in very agreeably with the views of the woman bent on renovation, or the making up of a new costume, for which the short remnant of material destined for the creation thereof proves insufficient. Again, the fashion of mixed materials proves very convenient in regard to the ready-made skirt for which no coat is forthcoming, and of a material or colour difficult to match in the piece. The cloth skirt and the corduroy coat look very well together, and many fashionable costumes are made up with plain cloth skirts and striped coats, the coat, in nine cases out of ten, being of the cut-away type, passing the hip-line, and rather longer at the back than in front.

Corded velveteen, or corduroy, is one of the materials most seasonable just now that make the best effects at the smallest price. Really good-wearing corduroy can be bought for about 1s. 6d. the yard, sufficiently substantial to dispense with a lining for the skirt of the dress, and this means a saving, of course. These corded velvets will give two or three winters' hard wear, and clean well. Moreover, they stand bad weather without suffering in appearance, the rib rendering the material very durable, and causing creases to be far less apparent than on a plain surface. No better material can be suggested for making up the pretty "Ethelberta" costume in our sketch than a corded velveteen, which is always seen at its best when made up as simply as possible, the material being sufficiently rich-looking in itself to dispense with trimming. Picture the "Ethelberta" in pheasant brown or pale fawn-coloured corduroy, with facings to the collar and sleeves of black satin, or, in the case of the brown scheme, ochre-coloured cloth, the little buttons being of the same material. The skirt is cut high at the waist to meet the kimono coat, and is arranged with a wide plastron effect in front; and another effective feature of the model is the way in which the coat fastens in front, with two wide tabs crossing one another, while it is distinguished by the ever-popular sleeve cut in one with the garment.

An inexpensive substitute for the fox or stoat, or feather neck-wear, is the scarf of knitted chenille, which is a happy medium between the more expensive neck-wear and the motor-scarf of knitted silk. The chenille stole is quite dressy-looking, and procurable in all the fashionable

colours from 4s., and it has the advantage of being very cosy and warm to the neck. It looks beautiful in a rich shade of violet, worn with a violet dress, or in sapphire-blue on a costume to match.

Neck-wear, in all its many varieties, has a potent influence upon dress. Just now folded collar-bands of black or coloured satin ribbon, with buckled bows in front, are considered particularly smart, and the old shoe-buckles may be used for the adornment of the same.

Girls are looking forward to the Christmas season, and many, no doubt, are busily engaged in preparing pretty frocks for evening wear. These girls will look with special interest at our "Christmas Eve" dress,

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IN THE COURTS YESTERDAY.

STORIES TOLD TO MAGISTRATES AND CORONERS.

KING'S BENCH DIVISION.

WAR OFFICE AND CORDITE CONTRACTS.

Justice Pickford delivered judgment in the dispute between Messrs. Kynoch and the War Office, as to whether the presence of perchloride of mercury in cordite supplied to the War Office invalidated contracts with the War Office, and justified the War Office in rejecting certain lots and terminating the contracts.—His lordship said Messrs. Kynoch had proceeded on a petition of right against the Crown for the price of certain cordite delivered to them under contract. The Crown had admitted the claim, but they urged they were entitled to a set-off on account of certain expenses and damages which they had incurred in consequence of a breach of contract by Messrs. Kynoch on account of other deliveries of cordite. The other proceedings were those on information by the Attorney-General against Messrs. Kynoch, claiming substantially the same relief as that set up in answer to the petition of right.

THE SUBSTANTIAL QUESTION, said his lordship, in both of these cases was whether the Crown were entitled to reject certain deliveries of cordite because of the presence in it of perchloride of mercury. His lordship thought the proper conclusion was that there must be judgment for petitioners, Messrs. Kynoch, upon the petition of right, with costs up to the time of the admission of their claim. There must be judgment for the Crown, on the information, for the amount of damage claimed, because the payment was not disputed, as the whole contest was on matters on which in his lordship's opinion the Crown had succeeded. Therefore, the Crown were entitled to the costs of both proceedings, after the time of the admission of liability upon the petition of right.—Messrs. Kynoch were granted a stay of execution with a view to an appeal.

COURT OF APPEAL.

THE "KING'S CLOGG."

Judgment was given in the case of *Adair v. the New River Co.*, and the Metropolitan Water Board, on the appeal of defendants—the Metropolitan Water Board—from a judgment of Justice Warrington, in the Chancery Division, holding the Board responsible for the payment of an annuity of £500, known as the "King's Clogg," to Sir F. E. S. Adair. The New River Co. was formed in the reign of James I., by Sir Hugh Myddelton, and 25 co-adventurers, with the object of bringing water from Cheddall and Ainswell to London. James I. provided half the cost of the undertaking, and in return received half the profits. His moiety was transferred to the Crown in 1609, and the "clogg" was created in 1631, when the trustees for the Crown assigned the moiety to Sir H. Myddelton in consideration of his paying a "yearly rent, charge, or annuity," William III. afterwards assigned the "clogg" to William Adair, through whom plaintiff, Sir F. E. S. Adair, derived his title.

APPEAL DISMISSED.

The documents of the New River Co. were destroyed by fire in 1709, but there was evidence that from that date until 1862 the "clogg" had been received by plaintiff. The New River Co.'s undertaking was transferred to the New River Co. on the amalgamation of the London water supplies, and the Board disputed their liability to pay the annuity of £500. Justice Warrington held that the obligation was transferred, and made a decision that the Water Board should pay the annuity and the arrears since 1862, and also pay plaintiff's costs and the costs of the New River Co.—The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Farwell held that the decision of Justice Warrington was right and should be affirmed, but Lord Justice Moulton disagreed.—The appeal, therefore, by a majority of the court, was dismissed.

MANSION HOUSE.

LOST HIS SHIP.

"I have smashed a window and stolen a salve and eaten it, and you had better look me up," was the remark of Mr. Clarke, a stalwart-built Canadian, who was charged with wilful damage.—P.C. Geo. Sullivan said prisoner came to him in Cannon-st. and told him what he had done, adding that he had been three days in London without food.—The Lord Mayor: Where did you come from?—Prisoner: From Hull.—P.C. Sullivan: The man is a Canadian sailor. He appears to have lost his ship and all his kit.—The Lord Mayor: Have you been robbed?—Prisoner: No; I was not there when my ship sailed, so I lost it with all my belongings.—Fourteen days' hard labour.

BOW-STREET.

MUSIC-HALL TRAGEDY.

Crying bitterly when she was arrested from the dock, Clementine Dolcini was committed for trial, charged with the manslaughter of her assistant, Mrs. Theo. Lee, by shooting him in the head while performing a "William Tell" at the Middlesex Music Hall.—Mr. E. J. Cheshire, gun and rifle manufacturer, said he had conducted a series of experiments with the rifle used by Dolcini in the course of her performances. He fired altogether 300 shots while the rifle was on a fixed rest, and found that some of them went wide of the mark, two dropping as much as five inches. The bullet he experimented with were of the same make as those used by Dolcini.

SOME BULLETS WERE LOOSE.

In the cartridge—some of them loose than others—some were quite tight.—Mr. Bodkin (prosecuting): What effect would the looseness have upon the shot?—Witness: The shot would be a trifle wild. It might drop, or it might go a little way off the mark. Witness went on to say that from the balcony at the Middlesex Music Hall he fired from the shoulder at a ball suspended in the same way as the one fired at by prisoner, and

the residence of Mr. Claude Robbins, a journalist, at 55, Workingham-rd, East Dulwich, on Nov. 1, when property of the value of between £6 and £7 was stolen, and the other at the house of Mr. Ernest Pollard, a commercial traveller, 5, Undercliff-nd, Lewisham, whose premises were entered between Nov. 16 and 18, and property of the value of £14 stolen. In both cases there were no evidences of a forcible entry, but upon experiments being made by two detective officers it was found that the respective street doors could be easily opened by keys which were found at prisoner's house.

SOUTH-WESTERN.

MOTHER SENT TO PRISON.

A sad story of a mother's cruelty to her step-child was told when Lizzie Seakins, wife of a ticket collector, of 26, Holden-st., Battersea, answered to an adjourned summons charging her with assaulting Emily Maud Seakins, 15.—Mr. G. Hindle prosecuted for the N.P.C.C.—The girl, in giving evidence, frequently burst into tears.—She stated she was made to get out of bed at 6 a.m. to do housework and prepare breakfast. Mother had blacked her eye, and often gave her "the stick." After thrashing her once because she complained to her father, her mother picked her up by the hair of her head from the table, on which she had been laid for a beating. She had also been beaten on the top of the head and kept without food, and she had to steal some.—Evidence was given by neighbours as to the child's ill-treatment.—Dr. Kempster, police surgeon, who examined the child by request, said she was covered with bruises from head to foot, cowed, and frightened. He was of opinion that she had been subjected to a very severe, long, and continued violence.—Defendant said the child was beyond control, frequently wandering from home, stealing things, and keeping the money when sent on errands. She had beaten her when she deserved it.—The husband said nothing more had been done than to give the child proper chastisement.—Two months' imprisonment.

THAMES.

PLAYING AT HIGHWAYMEN.

"The money has been spent by my son in purchasing swords, daggers and disguises for the purpose of playing at highwaymen," said the mother of Sam'l. Goodman, when the latter was charged with having stolen £3. 6d. the monies of the Commercial Gas Co.—Mr. Phelps, prosecuting, said that on Friday afternoon a collector in the employ of the company went to 121 Stepney Green, and on examining the meter found the money missing. When seen by Det. Houseman, the boy, in reply to questions, said, "Yes, I took it."—Accused was allowed to go, after a caution, on his mother becoming surety for his good behaviour for a year.

PISTOL SHOTS IN THE BAR.

"I am a fool; I tried to commit suicide and was not successful," said Mr. P. Bockelman, 37, licensee of the White Swan, Great Alie-st., Whitechapel, when charged with attempted suicide by shooting himself with a revolver.—Gottlieb Kramer, a tailor, said on Friday afternoon he was in the bar of defendant's house when he heard two pistol shots in quick succession come from the direction of the passage. Witness rushed out and seized prisoner by the wrist, at the same time taking the revolver out of his hand. The shots fortunately went through the brim of prisoner's hat.—Dr. Jones, who examined accused, found some slight gun wound marks on the right temple.—Isap. Beward stated that Mr. Kramer told him that they were reprimanding accused for an offence he was alleged to have committed, when prisoner rushed out to the landing and attempted to shoot himself.—Remanded in custody.

CLERKENWELL.

A COLLAPSED CONCERT.

Mr. Price, 51, described as a theatrical attendant, and Geo. Banham, 47, bus conductor, were charged, on remand, with begging.—Prisoners declared they were only trying to dispose of pawtuckets relating to their own property.—As a result of a "request for inquiries," the police had an interesting story to tell about Banham. They said he had arranged a benefit concert for himself, owing, apparently, to an injury in his leg. He said he had a "fracture," but inquiries at the hospital reduced the injury to an ulcerated heel some two years ago. Tickets for the concert were printed and sold by prisoner. But on the night of the concert—to be held at a public-house—artists arrived, and afterwards left on finding no payment forthcoming, while those present made a collection for the pianist who had been engaged—Banham 21 days and Price 7 days.

WEST HAM.

THE COOPER AND THE CARCASE.

Stealing the carcass of a frozen lamb by finding was the charge preferred against Wm. Goodyer, 32, a cooper, the lamb being the property of Arthur Frost, a carman.—On Friday prisoner was wheeling a cooper's barrow along Grafton-nd., when P.C. Lovett saw that it contained the carcass of a frozen lamb. Goodyer went to a butcher's shop kept by Christopher Palmer, and to him he said, "I have found a sheep. I saw it fall off a van, and I called to the carman, but he went away." Palmer advised him to take the carcass to the police station, and prisoner went away, but soon afterwards returned. He said that he had been trying to find the owner, but had failed, adding, "You can do it with it for 2s. it won't hurt you." Palmer refused to have anything to do with it.—Prisoner declared that he was going to speak to the constable about it when he was arrested.—The Bench were of opinion there was a doubt about the case.—Discharged.

WILLESDEN.

A WHIRL OF EXCITEMENT.

"We live in a whirl of excitement," said the wife of Wm. Jules Bunting, 26, a German hairdresser, and one of the oldest established tradesmen at Kilburn, in giving evidence against her husband, who was charged with killing his daughter, Mabel.—The latter, a prepossessing young woman, said that two nights ago, whilst under the influence of drink, caused a fire at the house. The next morning when she went to superintend the cleaning up of the bedchamber she found her father lying perfectly drunk on a half-burned bed. She aroused him, and he jumped up and struck her twice on the breast and on the cheek, and then threw a boot at her, hurting her.

Mrs. Bunting said her husband was drunk every day from seven o'clock in the morning until he went to bed at night. He kept whisky concealed all over the house, and she had even found Mr. Kippen's overcoat.—Prisoner, when asked to account for the possession of the coat, replied that he took it out of pawn, he having bought a pawtucket, relating to it from a man whom he did not know.

A watch and some pawtuckets found upon prisoner at the time of his arrest led to his being charged with the other cases of house-breaking—see at

from being burnt in his bed through her husband having a naked light near the bedclothes.—Prisoner said he had made up his mind to take the pledge and be a different man.—Bound over for 12 months.—On the advice of the magistrate prisoner agreed to allow his wife to manage his business for a time.

WEST HAM.

A WOMAN COMPLIMENTED.

A married woman was complimented in the course of the hearing of a case against Fred. Adams, 35, a fireman, of Wellstead-nd., East Ham, who was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and further with intent to insult a female.—On Friday night prisoner was in White Horse-lane, East Ham, the worse for drink, and a Mrs. Scanes, passing by, noticing him, gave information to a police constable.—Prisoner denied any intent to insult the lady, and added that he was not drunk, although he had had "some beer."—Mrs. Scanes, in answer to the Bench, said she did not really think prisoner meant to insult her.—The Chairman said that under the circumstances Adams would be fined 5s. and costs, and the Bench wished to compliment Mrs. Scanes for the action she had taken.

KINGSTON.

CAUGHT IN A TRAP.

"I thought that I was caught in a trap as soon as I asked you," said Wm. James, 45, described as a hawker, when arrested on a charge of begging from foot-passengers at King Charles's-crescent, Surbiton.—P.C. Lamming stated that on Friday he was in plain clothes when he saw prisoner receive money from two ladies. Accused then stopped witness, asking him for a "copper," and on telling prisoner he should charge him with begging prisoner made the remark given above.—Seven days' hard labour.

SHOELESS TO SCHOOL.

"If I send my children to school without any boots on their feet should have the Womans' Society on me," said a mother when summoned for not sending her children regularly to school.—Chairman: They must go to school without boots. If you go to Scotland you see children running about without boots, and they are healthy enough."—Fined 2s. 6d.

INQUESTS.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

A question of hospital treatment was heard at an inquest held by Dr. Walde on a child named Mabel Florence Jones, 22, the daughter of a labourer living at Henley-st., Battersea. The infant died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital from the effects of an injury to the head.—It was stated that about two months ago the child was playing in the backyard when a boy living next door threw over the fence a coal-hammer which had been borrowed. It struck the child on the head. She was taken to the Anti-Vivisection Hospital, Battersea, for treatment.—Emily Jones, deceased's sister, who took her to the hospital, said a wound on the child's head was stitched by a nurse after the doctor had seen it. On the following day the child was again taken to the hospital. The doctor saw her and then the nurse took the stitches out. Deceased was not taken to that hospital again, the nurse saying she need not go. Some time afterwards the child was

seen by another doctor, who recommended that she should be taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.—Dr. Davidson, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, said the child had a fractured skull, and the bone was splinted.

There was a suppurating wound on the head and septic meningitis had set in. The child's head was very dirty. Witness thought it would not have been difficult to detect the fracture when the child was taken to the Anti-Vivisection Hospital. It should have been admitted and kept clean.—Coroner: You cannot say positively that the child's life would have been saved. Dr. Davidson: No, but there would have been a reasonable expectation.—The coroner's officer said he was informed that the child was not taken again to the Anti-Vivisection Hospital, although instructions were given that it should be.

Witness destroyed the letter, but was able to recognize the writing as similar to that of the letter written in one of the other cases. He sent a postal order in response to the appeal.—Lord Willoughby de Broke, of Kinaston, Warwick, said that on Oct. 29 he received a long letter signed "Mary Milton" who said that she had been housemaid at Compton Verney for 16 years, and that she was in great distress through fire. Witness took some steps to test the truth of the letter and afterwards signed a cheque for £2, which he directed to be sent to "Mary Milton."—Accused asked no questions and made no statement.

SENTRY BY ANOTHER DOCTOR.

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When this was searched, the deceased had been in delicate health, and came downstairs to warm herself. Her nightdress became ignited, and on hearing her mother's voice, Miss Green rushed down and found deceased in the hall in flames. Without hesitation the young lady rolled her mother over, and succeeded in extinguishing the fire, being herself burnt about the arms.—Verdict, accidental death.

AN ECCENTRIC MAN.

At an inquest at St. Pancras on George Nash, Stanley, 65, who had lived in Marshall-st., Westminster, it was stated that deceased was very eccentric. During the last three years his relatives did not know how he had been living, but he had been employed previously as a money-lender's clerk. He refused to let any one into his room, and when he was removed to the Central London Sick Asylum his room was found to be in a filthy state. He had collected such odds and ends as tram tickets and cigarette pictures (of which there were thousands), buttons and matchboxes.—Medical evidence showed that death was due to blood poisoning, accelerated by want of food and neglect.

Verdict accordingly.

SAFETY PIN CAUSES DEATH.

The singular death of a child named Mary Horrocks, six weeks old, whose parents reside in Luton, Bedfordshire, was investigated by Mr. Schreder.—The infant, who was in the charge of a girl, began to cry for something which was on the floor. The girl leaned over the child to get it, and as she did so a safety pin which had been fastened to her blouse fell into the infant's open mouth. The child swallowed the pin, and was immediately taken to the East London Hospital, where a Rongen Ray photograph was taken to locate the position of the pin. It was not, however, found possible to remove the pin there, and the child was sent to the University College Hospital. There the pin was removed, but afterwards, though the child was at first thought to be going on well, she died a week later from bronchial pneumonia as up by the ulceration caused by the pin.—Verdict accordingly.

STREET FATALITY.

NO EVIDENCE OFFERED IN ANOTHER TRAIL.

No evidence was offered at Liverpool Assizes in the case of a chauffeur named Fk. Wyde, who was indicted on the coroner's warrant with the manslaughter of Arthur Steele Eles at Saltford.—It was explained that before the magistrate the police offered no evidence, and his lordship remarked that if Mr. Burgess (counsel for the prosecution) thought there was no chance of accused being convicted, after what had occurred in another court, he was quite at liberty to drop the prosecution. He understood that prisoner was driving a motor-car when deceased crossed the road. As soon as he heard the motor-car coming he stepped back, instead of forward, and unfortunately got run over.—Mr. Burgess: That is so.—His Lordship: The only point is whether there would be evidence that prisoner was driving the motor-car at such a terrific pace as to frighten the man, and place him in a position of danger.—Mr. Burgess remarked that he did not think the ends of justice would be advanced in any way if the prosecution were proceeded with, and the jury having passed a formal verdict of not guilty. Wyde was discharged.

REVOLVER SHOTS.

SCENE IN A NOVELIST'S GARDEN.

The Stratford-on-Avon magistrates had before them a young man named Jarvis, of Birmingham, who was arrested late one night last week in Miss Marie Corelli's garden, after firing five revolver shots. When apprehended a revolver was found in his possession, together with several cartridges. Jarvis had been remanded to Warwick Gaol, where he was under medical observation.

The charge preferred against him was of being found in Miss Corelli's garden for an unlawful purpose.—

Mr. Warren appeared at the request of the accused man's relatives, and Mr. Phillips represented Miss Marie Corelli, who was not in court.—P.C. Workman said that hearing a revolver fired in Miss Corelli's garden he searched the premises with assistance and found Jarvis standing on the

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

MR. BOTTOMLEY TO PAY A FINE OF £300.

The sequel to recent articles in "John Bull" was heard in the Divisional Court before Justices Bigham and Walton, when Mr. Horatio Bottomley appeared to answer a rule for contempt of court. The matter complained of was contained in an article, headed:

Bottomley v. The Crown.

How the fight is going.

Our editor a raging favourite.

OUR IMPERIAL SERVICES

NAVAL, MILITARY, AND CIVILIAN.

THE LOWER DECK.

A Merry Christmas.

By the time these lines appear, Christmas will have commenced on the ships and Naval establishments at home, and the officers and men will be flocking homewards to their friends during next week after a very hard year's work in the half-fleet. The Admiralty have in the past been subjected to some very severe criticism for not giving our sea-going squadrons a Christmas. Generally these criticisms have been captious and unjust, when it is remembered how all the Reserve ships used to lay in our dockyards for ten months out of the year and rust away into obsolescence, and it is only members of the present Board of Admiralty who have given the officers who bettered things by 75 per cent. are bullied because the ideal has not been reached at one bound. Any way, during this year there have been cruising evolutions and exercises which should content the soul of even the most exacting critics, and which will be thoroughly enjoyed the recreations of the coming festive season. It is unfortunate that it should be necessary to keep one-half of the ships of the Channel Fleet ready for sea at an hour's notice, but after a few blue sentences a sailor's philosophy will surmount that difficulty, and the ship companies thus detained will not be the least happy among those who have to eat their Christmas dinners on board man-of-war or in Naval barracks this year. On all sides there will be good cheer and good spirits among the officers and men, and meetings of those ashore will be looking over every opportunity for pleasurable times in a reasonable way, without any of the debauchery of the old-time Naval Christmas. And while wishing them all a Merry Christmas, I am sure they would like also to convey the compliments of the season to my chums across the line, Mr. Atkins, and all his comrades in the British Army.

The Ages of Officers.

Very much in keeping with the progress of our country in the last decade is the desire visible in the Navy to allow young officers of undoubted ability to win their way to the higher ranks of their profession before they grow old and past their prime. The cases of Capt. Dombier, who has recently been appointed to the command of the new cruiser Defence after only four years holding of his rank, and Capt. Dan Beatty, Rear-Admiral at the age of 34, are both instances of this new development of Naval activity. With the very evident intention of the Admiralty to facilitate more and more the promotion to the higher ranks of promising rankers this encouragement given to young and clever officers marks a very progressive and commendable spirit in the Admiralty, with a determination not to let the Navy fall behind. Civil professions in offering attractions for the very best brains of the country. There is nowadays plenty of scope in Naval affairs for inventions which shall still further increase the efficiency or ensure the safety of our warships. There are vast fields of research open to the naval engineer who is bold and strong, and such genius should be fully encouraged to use his brains, and should be rapidly placed in the position in which he can use them best. In these days, when sheer brain power alone will tell in the competition of nations, to allow a useful unit to be cramped and kept from his proper outlet by cast-iron rules of service is really a mistake. Our Naval officers and men should be of the best, and the best of these should be encouraged in doing good to the service of which they are members, and, of course, by that they benefit the nation at large. Naval work, in short, is national work. Of course, there is still room and need of age and experience, as well as youth and energy.

Cutting It Fine.

This week I am again inclined to let a man representing his own grievance and the grievance of many others, state his case in his own home language. My only comment is that the line must fall somewhere, but it certainly does seem necessary to make adjustments that give a little more flexibility than the regulation power of the naval authorities. The Laws of the Medes and Persians ought not to be fixed to the matter of rewarding long service and good conduct. There should be room for the authorities to use more discretion, for to fall by a day or two to obtain a highly-deserved recompence for good service is neither good sense nor good policy.

Improving the Soldiers' Position.

The experiments made by Gen. Smith Dorrien in abolishing income requirements for the G.C. Medal, followed at other intervals, and the Aldershot commander may congratulate himself on having brought about a general endeavour on the part of commanders to improve the position of the men beneath them. The use of pickets in garrison towns is quite a new one, and the load has been set at Aldershot, cannot but follow it. The day is not far off, I believe, when pickets will entirely disappear as Army appendages, for the sergeants are quite capable of and do keep their men in order, and this is very good. Gen. Smith-Dorrien's circular order will affect all companies, and it is to be hoped that the authorities want officers in the number required to keep up the establishment, it is very apparent that as they will not be in sufficient numbers on the present date, the Government must do something for them in the way of pay, and a scale so drawn up that the rankers can take his place beside the mounted men, and have an equal chance, without the risk of being borne down by overwhelming financial difficulties.

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Medals not for Officers.

It is officially announced that the concession as to 10 years' qualifying service for the Volunteer Long Service Medal does not apply to officers, and that an officer who had not performed his service on March 31 last would not be allowed to receive any service subsequent to that date towards the period required to qualify for the medal. Also that officers are ineligible for the Territorial Efficiency Medal. An individual who already possesses the Volunteer Medal, although he may have served a period equivalent to that required to qualify for the latter decoration subsequently to his having been granted the Volunteer Medal.

Civil Service Rifles.

A distinguished and very large company gathered at Carlton House on Wednesday night on the occasion of the presentation of the 15th of the Royal Engineers to the Prince of Wales's Own Civil Service Rifles when the War Minister delivered a very interesting address. The new C.O. Col. Hon. G. G. D. Willoughby (late Scots Guards), who succeeded the Earl of Arran, made his first appearance in the corps and presided over the proceedings. Col. Horrill, now second in command, presented the new insignia of the corps, of which he said his Majesty the King was the only member of the regiment who could count an unbroken connection with the corps from its formation in 1860, when the King, then Prince of Wales, became its honorary colonel on March 31, 1860, when it became merged in the Territorial Force. Beginning with a strength of 300 in its first year, it reached its maximum strength in 1860, when it numbered 1,000 of all ranks.

Late Colour-Sergeant, R.M.

National Volunteer Reserve.

In these days, when it is necessary to have the service of every man with any kind of military training behind him linked up in some organised force that can be used in case of need for the protection of our own shores or the safety of the Empire, it is important to help forward all movements having an object in view. For this reason I am glad of the opportunity of putting in a good word for the splendid work which is being done by Col. C. Ford and his colleagues, who are organising a "National Volunteer Reserve" of British-borne civilians, who are ex-Volunteers, ex-Navy, or ex-Army, with four years efficient service. I hope ex-Navy men who are so placed that they can still offer services to their country will join the above-mentioned force, which is being formed to form the third line of home defence in the event of war. All particulars are to be had from Mr. G. G. St. J. Shepherd, of St. Queen Victoria-st, London, E.C., who would be glad to receive applications for membership (stating rank and service). This Reserve is over 6,000 strong.

What Will They Do With Him?

In a few months time Lord Kitchener will retire from the Indian Command and will be elevated to the rank of Field Marshal in recognition of his services. What his next post will be is a matter of conjecture, but it is very unlikely that it will be one at home because he would

require an absolutely free hand, and under the present regime this would be impossible, though no better man could be found for re-modelling the Home Army, as he has done the Indian. It is freely stated that K. of K. may be given the command of the Indian forces so that the binding together of the Colonies will be together entirely in union. In India he will probably be succeeded by Gen. Barrow, an old Indian campaigner, who knows all the frontier perhaps better than any soldier living. Gen. Barrow has been a commander under Kitchener. The elevation to Field Marshal in India the India's commander will be widely appreciated in the barrack room as a reward for his hard hammering policy, and brilliant work as an organiser in peace and war.

T. ALEXA.

THE SECOND LINE.

A Doughty Champion.

We all know by the calendar that the Earl of Wemyss has long since passed the three score and even the four score limit which are the proverbial limits to the age of man, but if the "doughty champion of the Militia" were judged only by his stern onslaught on the present Militia situation he would be looked upon as a formidable gladiator in his lusty prime. In putting a long string of questions on Monday with regard to the Home Defence Army he not only elicited some useful information from Lord Lucas, respecting the Territorial Army, but made an occasion to denounce the policy which has thrown away the opportunity of securing the Militia Service, an adequate Home Defence Force for a Territorial Army, which, in the words of the noble lord, is in its present state, when only two-thirds grown, entirely worthless, and which, even if it had its full strength of 300,000, would still be worthless for the duties it might have to perform.

The City Territorials.
Mr. Geo. Pragnell, hon. sec. of the committee formed for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of the Mansion House Conference of London Employers, to which reference was made in this column last week, writes from E.C. to say that Messrs. Howard Williams, Henry Smith, J. P. McIntyre and himself were elected to form the committee. Notice boards were put up in the warehouses of nearly 70 big employers announcing to over 600,000 employees that the War Office had granted such facilities for attending camp as were possible, and that men are now willing to give 21 days' holiday every year on full pay to salaried, warehousemen or clerks who, with their families, are in a position to afford the necessary extra expense on manoeuvres or detachment, contingencies to regimental entertainments, and teachers of Hindostani, etc. A man who gets his commission from the ranks ought to have in India at least a private allowance for three years of £200 a year.

Camp Trainings for 1909.
Most men who want to get commissions from the ranks immediately think that if once they can get to India they will be promoted. A greater mistake could not be made. Of course, the cost of living in India for the officer in India has for some time been going steadily up, and in any case the ranker cannot demand admission to the Indian Army any more than any other officer. He must serve at least two years in a British regiment in India, and then pass as an ensign, after doing which he must wait patiently for his chance, which may take an extremely long time arriving. In the meantime he has to live without bringing discredit to his regiment by during this period, if he has not an adequate allowance, he may deeply offend his superiors, and by the time his chance does arrive he finds himself disappointed at the outset. Until the Government will ensure every man who rises to a commission from the ranks having enough to live on without getting into financial difficulties it is better far for any man who is now toiling the line, and who has had his eye to commission, to rank, to cast the vision aside. Ask any man who has done it how he fared in a commission without financial help from outside, and his reply will not be encouraging. But if the authorities want officers in the number required to keep up the establishment, it is very apparent that as they will not be in sufficient numbers on the present date, the Government must do something for them in the way of pay, and a scale so drawn up that the rankers can take his place beside the mounted men, and have an equal chance, without the risk of being borne down by overwhelming financial difficulties.

Improving the Soldiers' Position.
The experiments made by Gen. Smith Dorrien in abolishing income requirements for the G.C. Medal, followed at other intervals, and the Aldershot commander may congratulate himself on having brought about a general endeavour on the part of commanders to improve the position of the men beneath them. The use of pickets in garrison towns is quite a new one, and the load has been set at Aldershot, cannot but follow it. The day is not far off, I believe, when pickets will entirely disappear as Army appendages, for the sergeants are quite capable of and do keep their men in order, and this is very good. Gen. Smith-Dorrien's circular order will affect all companies, and it is to be hoped that the authorities want officers in the number required to keep up the establishment, it is very apparent that as they will not be in sufficient numbers on the present date, the Government must do something for them in the way of pay, and a scale so drawn up that the rankers can take his place beside the mounted men, and have an equal chance, without the risk of being borne down by overwhelming financial difficulties.

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The Territorial Medal.
A feeling akin to panic has been created by the announcement that the Territorial Efficiency Medal, instead of being a "long-service" medal, like the Queen's Long Service medal, is to be coined in shape, a form very extensively reserved for Sunday School good conduct medals and badges of elater, football, and athletic associations of no national importance. It is hardly too much to say that if the badge-like form of the Territorial medal had been adopted when the option was given of choosing between the Long Service medal and the Territorial Efficiency medal, very few, if any, would have chosen the latter. As a matter of fact, a large majority of the Volunteer long-service men, who are entitled to the Queen's Long Service medal, are not in sufficient numbers on the present date for them to be eligible for the Long Service medal, and have an equal chance, without the risk of being borne down by overwhelming financial difficulties.

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The Range Question.
The best way for the Government, or any authority, to encourage rifle shooting is to assist in providing adequate range accommodation wherever it is needed. The Government is in a position to do this. Unfortunately, it is in a position to encourage rifle shooting only by the use of competitions in all contests for which the county associations and the public provide the prizes. For grants of ammunition afford only temporary relief, whilst the provision of a range is a lasting, if not permanent, solution.

Love of Shooting.
The intention of the Government with regard to civilian rifle clubs will be manifested through the War Office and the county associations. These three admit that the question has to be considered, but they agree also that a decision shall be deferred, and even a competition and discussion of the relative value proposed as long as possible. The financing of civilian rifle clubs will not be allowed to affect the next budget. These associations may encourage rifle shooting simply by a change in their attitude towards clubs. There are men who love shooting. These men make themselves efficient rifle-shots at their own expense. They constitute the nucleus of a force of sharpshooters which might be very useful in the event of an unexpected invasion. At the present time, however, the War Office did accept them as a temporary relief, whilst the provision of a range is a lasting, if not permanent, solution.

How to Shoot.
Some rifle clubs are providing facilities for pistol shooting as a variant to the usual programme. Since the revolver is practically abolished as an Army weapon I am afraid pistol shooting cannot be regarded in any sense as a national duty but must be viewed solely as an offshoot of the rifle. The Royal Patriotic won the championship Gold medal, cup and £10, and Pie Chicken the silver medal and £5. Maj. Brett's company (B) won the Lord Bute Cup, and C company (Lieut. Kirkby) the Lord Arran Cup.

T. ALEXA.

This year, out of a strength of 300, 150 attended camp, and no fewer than 100 remained for the whole 15 days. It was the strongest battalion in the 2nd Division, which was under the command of Maj.-Gen. Vesey Dawson, who, with the Earl of Arran, was present on the occasion. The prizes were given away by Mrs. F. D. Acland, wife of Mr. Acland, M.P., Financial Secretary to the Army Council, who until the recent change of government was a member of the Cabinet. Lieutenant Partington won the championship Gold medal, cup and £10, and Pie Chicken the silver medal and £5. Maj. Brett's company (B) won the Lord Bute Cup, and C company (Lieut. Kirkby) the Lord Arran Cup.

Pistol Shooting.

In the course of Mr. Haldane's address, which, by the way, was slightly interrupted at the outset by the inevitable suffrage, he said he had no misgiving about the future of the Territorial Force. There was no part of the country in which the force was not slowly but steadily increasing. In referring to one of the greatest difficulties which would be necessary—the "horse problem"—Mr. Haldane said the Army Council had definitely decided upon a course by which the problem would be surely solved. The county associations would be asked to ascertain, register and classify in each county the horses that would be available in case of mobilisation. In an emergency the Government might shortly be expected to affect the large body of horses at Woolwich, only those at home out-stations where the scale of pay is lower than at headquarters. The concession will come into operation on April 1 next. But some associations are so rare that one is inclined to cheer unduly when one comes along. To get something at all is a great achievement, and the Federation of Writers' Associations in War Department is to be congratulated on "mobilisation done." I think that all writers at out-stations would do well to join a federation which has already shown that it is a live one, and if any who have had their interest aroused by the late announcement, and this paragraph will send me a card I will put them in touch with the hon. secretary.

OUR CIVIL SERVANTS.

A.O.D. Writers.
The announcement recently made by Mr. Haldane is an improved scale of pay for Writers of the Army Ordnance Department might shortly be expected will not, I understand, affect the large body of horses at Woolwich, only those at home out-stations where the scale of pay is lower than at headquarters. The concession will come into operation on April 1 next. But some associations are so rare that one is inclined to cheer unduly when one comes along. To get something at all is a great achievement, and the Federation of Writers' Associations in War Department is to be congratulated on "mobilisation done." I think that all writers at out-stations would do well to join a federation which has already shown that it is a live one, and if any who have had their interest aroused by the late announcement, and this paragraph will send me a card I will put them in touch with the hon. secretary.

CITIZEN RIFLEMEN.

The 1908 Record.
In club shooting with the miniature rifle at short range in 1908, the best man in the country was recorded to a Scotsman, Mr. J. Irvine, of the Manchester Municipal Officers R.C. Some of his scores are given in "The Rifleshot," and from them it seems that Mr. Irvine has achieved a series of scores never equalled. In 18 competition shoots, each shoot comprising a series of 25, 50, and 100 yards, he has made the century each time, and qualified for 18 "skilled shot certificates between April and November. In making the highest possible score at the three ranges in one record in miniature rifle shooting, from his portrait Mr. Irvine appears to be a young man, and as a rifleshot his fame should certainly be known, wherever civilians gather to shoot the miniature rifle.

Grimsby Fishermen.

In the Lincoln County League matches the Grimsby fishermen, justly, won the trophy of the Grimsby Fishermen, an adequate Home Defence Force for a Territorial Army, which, in its present state, when only two-thirds grown, is entirely worthless, and which, even if it had its full strength of 300,000, would still be worthless for the duties it might have to perform. The City Territorials. The club shooting with the miniature rifle at short range in 1908, the best man in the country was recorded to a Scotsman, Mr. J. Irvine, of the Manchester Municipal Officers R.C. Some of his scores are given in "The Rifleshot," and from them it seems that Mr. Irvine has achieved a series of scores never equalled. In 18 competition shoots, each shoot comprising a series of 25, 50, and 100 yards, he has made the century each time, and qualified for 18 "skilled shot certificates between April and November. In making the highest possible score at the three ranges in one record in miniature rifle shooting, from his portrait Mr. Irvine appears to be a young man, and as a rifleshot his fame should certainly be known, wherever civilians gather to shoot the miniature rifle.

Unpaid Overtime.

By the way, the question of overtime is rather interesting. In the Post Office the subordinates are paid overtime to those who work in the higher circles are not. The first-class supplementary clerks, for instance, for some unknown reason work two hours' overtime every day throughout the year, and cannot, or dare not, charge for their extra work. You will see at once that this little system of sweating does harm to the staff and but very little, if any, good to the public. It stops promotion, and it must impregnate gall

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CONSTANCE DREVER AND LOUISE JOURDAN.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

Lessee and Managers, A. and F. Goss.

AT D. JACK STRAW. By W. Somers Marston.

Produced by Mr. D. Jack Straw.

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EVERY EVENING AT 8.30. Musical Production.

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THE HALL. THURSDAY, 8.15. MAT. 8.30.

IN NEW VAUDEVILLE AND BURLESQUE.

THEATRE PANTOMIME, FAUST. By George Abbott.

THEATRE PANTOMIME, THE Mysterious.

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THEATRE PANTOMIME, FAUST. By George Abbott.

TERRIBLE TRIPLE TRAGEDY.

SON MURDERS FATHER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW.

BROTHERS CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY.

The quiet little township of Maldon, in the Blackwater district of Essex, was the scene of a terrible triple tragedy early yesterday.

The son of a general dealer shot dead his father and brother-in-law, subsequently turning the weapon on himself and inflicting injuries which also proved fatal.

Later in the day two other brothers of the murderer were arrested and charged with being accessories before the fact.

The tragedy is supposed to be the sequel of domestic differences which had developed into the nature of a family feud.

STORY OF THE TRAGEDY.

"People" Special Correspondent.

Maldon, Saturday Evening.

The tragedy is one of the most sensational which has ever occurred in the county, written "The People" special representative, Mr. Frederick Jas. Cole, who was murdered by his eldest son, who bore his name, was a local carrier. On Friday night, together with his son-in-law, named Major Kitchen, (the other victim of the murderer), he returned from Chelmsford shortly after eleven o'clock. Mrs. Kitchen, who had accompanied her husband and father, was dropped at her house, the men proceeding to the stables, some 10 minutes' distance from the house, to put up the horse. Here Fred Cole, jun., appears to have been in hiding awaiting the return of his father and brother-in-law. How the fatal encounter took place it is impossible to say, but about two hours later, when Mrs. Kitchen, concerned at the non-arrival home of her husband, proceeded to the stables, she was horrified to find the dead bodies of her husband and father lying in a pool of blood, while some yards from the stables she stumbled across the body of her brother Fred with blood oozing from a wound in his neck.

The Police on the Scene.

The poor woman, staggered by the shock, went off for assistance, and the police were apprised of the occurrence. What they found at the stables was described at the police-court proceedings by Police Insp. Giggins, when two other sons of the deceased Cole were placed in the dock, and charged with aiding, abetting, counselling, and procuring Fdk. Jas. Cole the younger to feloniously and wilfully and with malice aforethought kill and murder his father.

At the Police Court.

The accused men, Edwd. H. Cole, 23, and Jas. Cole, 30, who were described respectively as a chimney sweep and a palterer, were unshaven and rather unattractive in appearance. They were represented by Mr. A. W. Freeman, solicitor. — Insp. Rd. Giggins, stationed at Maldon, stated that at 2.15 a.m. on Saturday he went to some stables situated in a meadow at Tenterfield, Maldon, which had been occupied by Fdk. Jas. Cole, sen. (deceased), and there he saw P.C. Burrows and Mr. Browne.

The Inspector's Statement.

The inspector said: "I found Fred. Jas. Cole lying on his back in the first stable. He was dead, with a bullet wound on the right side of his head. Major Kitchen, the son-in-law, was lying against the third stable door dead, with a bullet wound in his right cheek. The top of the double door was closed and the lower half was open. The rug and lamp had no doubt just been put there on the arrival of Cole and Kitchen."

The Murderer Found.

Fred. Jas. Cole, jun., was lying in the open meadow about 27 yards away from the third stable. He had a bullet wound in his neck. He was alive, but unconscious. The bullet appeared to have entered the neck and come out at the other side of the head; a five-chambered revolver was lying beside his hand. I examined the revolver and found it contained four empty cartridges and one loaded one. The revolver produced was a new-looking, plated weapon. We obtained a stretcher and removed the injured man to the infirmary at the union. On searching his clothing at the infirmary I found 16 cartridges loose in the waistcoat pocket, and in his coat pocket. I found a box (presumed) with 34 cartridges and 25d in money. The dead bodies were taken to the mortuary. On Fdk. Cole, sen., the deceased, I found 25 lb. 3d, and a cheque-book, and in Kitchen's pocket was in 2d.

The Brothers Arrested.

At 5 a.m. I went with other officers to Cole's house at 111, High-st., Maldon. The two prisoners were in bed. They dressed and came down. I cautioned them and asked them to come to the police station. There I again cautioned them and said: "When did you see your brother Fred last?" They both said: "Last night, about a quarter to 11." They both made statements. Edwd. H. Cole wrote:

I am a blacksmith, living at Maldon. My brother Fred came to our house about 6.30 p.m. on the 18th inst. He was there all the evening. His wife was present when he came in. She stayed there about half an hour after Fred came in. She then left the house, and Fred was there all the evening sitting in front of the fire smoking his pipe. I was firing fish all the evening. My brother Jim was at home at tea-time when Fred came in, and was in and out all the evening.

My brother Jim went out about 20 minutes to 11 p.m. for the supper beer. About two minutes afterwards I said to Fred: "Why don't you go home?" He said: "All right; I will go presently." I said: "You will have your money after you. You had better go home, if you are going to work in the morn-

ing taking the fire off. Fred came in about a minute or two afterwards, and said: "I am going now. Get up and get me a cup of tea in the morning." With that he went out by the back door into the yard. That would be about a quarter to 11. I have not seen him since. I went to bed about a quarter or 20 minutes past 11. I had been

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LEAP FOR LIBERTY.

MISCREANT'S NIGHT IN A WELL.

It is not long since Feltwell, a Norfolk village, was the scene of a murder in which an aged woman was the victim. Now another outrage has been perpetrated there, also on an old woman, though happily without fatal result as far. A young man of about 20, named Ernest Wm. Russell, a labourer at Feltwell, who was only released the previous Wednesday from Norwich Prison after serving six months for felonies, has just been remanded in custody at Thetford, charged with attempting to murder Miss Georgia Kote, 73—Miss Kote keeps a "general" shop at Feltwell, and it is stated Russell entered and, after making some purchase, remained for a "pint of beer."

Nothing unusual was noticed until after 10 p.m., when, attracted by cries of "Murder," Miss Kote's neighbour, a man named Walker, went to the shop, and as he opened the door, Russell, it is alleged, dashed out. Walker caught him by the coat, but was unable to retain his hold, and although a hue and cry was raised, and a police constable pursued him for some distance, the man made good his escape without leaving any trace. The old woman was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor, with a large wound on the head, which had been inflicted with a blacksmith's hammer. Her left hand had also been struck. Dr. E. G. Archer, who was at once summoned, bandaged the wounds, and Miss Kote, regaining consciousness during the night, hopes are entertained of her recovery.

All night is a well. Meanwhile all efforts on the part of the police to recover trace of her assailant were in vain. The next morning, however, as an engine-driver named Tibbitt was going to a farm for the purpose of removing threeding tackle, he was startled by hearing cries of "Help!" No one was in sight, and he was at a loss to understand where the cries came from, until he approached a well, which is 50 ft. deep. At the bottom, in 3 ft. of water, he found Russell shouting for help. Assistance was procured, and by means of the chain used for drawing water accused was drawn to the surface and arrested by the police. He was in a soaked condition, and stated that he had been in the well all night, having jumped in, it is alleged, in his effort to escape.

DORANDO BEATEN.

LONGBOAT WINS IN THIRD "MARATHON" RACE.

There was an enormous crowd at the Madison Square-gardens, New York, when the match between Dorando Pietri, the Italian, and Longboat, the famous Canadian-Indian runner, was decided, and resulted in a comparatively easy win

TOM LONGBOAT.
(Photo, Fenton.)

for Longboat. It will be remembered that the match was really the outcome of the recent contest at the same venue between the plucky little Italian and Hayes, the American, on Nov. 25 last, when the latter was beaten. Both men entered upon their task in the pink of condition. It is estimated that there was a concourse of nearly 15,000 present when the race started, both contestants, of course, having an enormous number of supporters. As on the previous occasions, the course measured 22 miles 360 yards. The greatest excitement prevailed previous to the firing of the pistol, and the tension became, if anything still greater as soon as the race commenced. Longboat was on the whole better, "fancied" than Dorando, who at first made the pace. Then Longboat commenced to worry the Italian, and several times took the lead. This seemed to have the effect, as no doubt was expected, of distressing the Italian, who, it was seen, was towards the finish having great difficulty in maintaining the pace. However, in the 26th mile, Dorando collapsed and fell, Longboat finishing alone in 3 hours 41 min. 5.3 sec., against Dorando's time in his race with Hayes of 3 hours 40 min. 20.2 sec. Longboat was one of the competitors in the recent Olympic games at the Stadium, but, not being in very good form, he made a poor show against his rivals.

WON A BRIDE.

A delightful romance arising out of the race has culminated in the formal betrothal of Tom Longboat, vanquisher of Dorando, and Loretta Maracle, a beautiful black-haired Indian maiden. The couple will be married on Dec. 20. Loretta is a "college girl" and the daughter of wealthy parents, who live in the Tyendinaga Indian reservation in Ontario. She fell in love with the runner at first sight, but neither Longboat's father nor the lady's would agree to their marrying. Full-blooded Indians, it appears, do not believe nowadays in such youthful marriages. However, the couple went hand-in-hand to the girl's father, to whom Longboat said, "If I beat Dorando I take Loretta. If I lose I give her up." The older Indian granted assent in the Peninsular Cosopay manner, and said, "It is quite out of touch just now, and the

THE TURF.

By "LARRY LYNX"
(W. LOTHINGA).

"Larry Lynx" cannot correspond with his readers, nor can he spare any consideration undertaken botting commissions.

(Notes on the Week's Racing, with Jottings and Analysis of important pending Selections for each day, in our Friday and Saturday Editions. This is continued into the Saturday which mainly deals with Saturday's racing and selections for the early part of the ensuing week. The earlier editions should be ordered through Newsagent, or at the Mailway Bookstalls.)

NEWBURY.

The elements promised a more uncomfortable afternoon at Newbury than was proved to be the case. The sun shone, as usual, being partly hidden and sheltered by clouds, and the day was an animated day's sport with certain almost sensational issues. The market was weakened, and there are already several of the leading fielders either on holiday or shirking the winter business. "Orby" may well be a good horse "out and about" and his temper will allow him to jump at home, but the four-year-old had even to have his initial schooling in public. The going was bound to be heavy, and, together with the severity of the course, naturally killed the three-year-olds and yet one of them, Thura, sprinted away for all she was worth, leaving the others to be caught. In contrast, Birrell was outpaced but staying on, and but for the disqualification of any true sportsman to claim horses, especially from an owner like Mr. F. Nelsi, Birrell would certainly have been very cheap at 150s. The favourites, Woodstock and Bertolini, Newby is becoming recognized as almost an auction mark. The useful little Master of Arms was bought in, while his full brother, the three-year-old Ylidirum, was "you know" anything about him,ridiculously cheap. It is a pity that no one has yet been able to buy him, although that may delay matters a few moments. One likes to see how their horse (or fancy, if a backer) performs, and it is, as it should be, quite a part of the expected programme everywhere.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

PARAGRAPHS FROM ALL PARTS.

In London 2,196 births and 1,311 deaths were registered last week.

The deaths included 59 from measles, 10 from scarlet fever, 14 from diphtheria, 7 from whooping-cough, 9 from enteric fever, and 11 from diarrhoea.

Different forms of violence caused 52 deaths. Of these 13 were cases of suicide and 2 of homicide, while the remaining 37 deaths were attributed to accident or negligence.

The deaths registered last week in 76 great towns of England and Wales corresponded to an annual rate of 15.5 per 1,000 of their aggregate population, which is estimated at 16,234,932 persons in the middle of the year.

In Greater London 3,359 births and 1,807 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population, these numbers are 361 and 384 below the respective averages in the corresponding weeks of the previous five years.

A little Charles II. silver bowl, weighing 11oz., was sold for 350s. at Christie's.

Managers of the council school at Epsom have objected to inmates of the asylum being permitted to walk in the streets near the school, and the education committee is recommending the L.C.C. to put a stop to the practice.

"No man condoneth thee, neither do I condemn thee," said Judge Willis at Woolwich to the wife of a debtor. "Pay as soon as you can, but don't pay anything until after Christmas. You will want something for Christmas."

While Mr. W. Goodwyn, of Wrentham, near Sudbury, was out shooting, his cartridge became jammed, and when he tried to extricate it, it exploded. The shot entered one of his legs, which was amputated, but death resulted from shock.

SHOT WITH POISONED ARROWS.

A Dutch patrol in the island of South Paget (off the west coast of Sumatra) has been attacked by natives, who fired on the troops with poisoned arrows, killing one man and wounding another.

TWELVE LIVE ON 10s. A WEEK.

A mother of 10 children told the London magistrates that she could not send the little ones to school as her husband only earned 10s. a week, and she was unable to buy boots out of that sum. She was fined 5s. 6d.

CENTURIAN'S DEATH.

Mr. J. O'Sullivan, whose funeral took place this week at Dungarvan, Co. Cork, had attained the age of 100 years. He appeared as the plaintiff in a lawsuit heard in Dublin early this year, and astonished the court by his vitality and memory.

Gorse is to be seen in bloom in Epping Forest.

Owing to the bursting of a tank at a chalk clay works near St. Austell, nearly 800 tons of wet clay, valued at £1,000, ran to waste.

BLACKBIRDS, ROSEBIRDS, ROSE-PIPERS, AND OTHER FLOWERS are in bloom in several parts of the Isle of Wight.

So many paupers are flocking to the Epping Workhouse that it is contemplated using the board-room as a dormitory.

While singing a hymn at the close of the service at the Carmel Baptist Chapel, Pontardulais, near Llanelli, Wm. Tyllywd, a farmer, fell back in his seat and expired.

The Rev. F. Harrison, who has just resigned the living of North Wraxall, Wiltshire, has not been absent from the parish on a single Sunday since July 1867.

"In the 'imitation antique' business the most money is made when the biggest fools come along," declared a witness at the Bloomsbury County Court.

Penny dinners for the poor, at which the menu includes mutton broth, rabbit pie, potatoe hot-pot, Irish stew, and hot pies, have been started at South Shields.

Croydon Council rejected by a majority of three a recommendation of the Education Committee that £1,000 should be taken from the rates for feeding necessitous school children.

THE MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

Mr. A. Macmorran, K.C., has consented to be nominated as chairman of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions in succession to the late Sir R. Little, and Mr. Montagu Sharp, deputy-chairman of the sessions, will also be a candidate. The election takes place on Jan. 9.

FEED THE PIGS.

When a Christmas box of 25 was granted by the St. Asaph Guardians to the workhouse master, it was stated that although it was no part of his duties, he had fed the pigs and had not once asked for an increase of salary during his 30 years' service.

BAD TURKEY YEAR.

Leadenhall Market reports that English turkeys will not be so large or so plentiful as usual this Christmas. The early part of the season was unfavourable for hatching, and considerable numbers of the early brood were lost by damp and cold. The second brood, hatched two months later, under more favourable conditions, have not had time to grow.

Mr. John Galbraith, of the London Society of Composers, is dead.

Burglars who broke into the church of Puge-Ville, a suburb of Toulon, cut down the church bell and carried it off in a cart.

Mr. Wm. H. Pincock, of Smithfield Market, writes warning owners of horses and vans "against the many thieves that are prowling about just now."

AGED 104. Mrs. Mary O'Donnell, of Drimore, near Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, has challenged any young woman in the district to a stocking-knitting competition.

At Blackbourn, sweaterbird, rose-pipers, and other flowers are in bloom in several parts of the Isle of Wight.

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The Duke of Westminster has contributed £200 to the Bishop's Fund for unemployed.

To avoid paying a halfpenny bridge toll, at Chester-le-Street, a man named Lewis tried to swim the weir and was drowned.

The champion bullock at the Boston Show weighed 22cwt., and was the heaviest that are prowling about just now."

At the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Chas. Cripps, K.C., has withdrawn his resignation of the office of Vicar-General.

Digging in a trench at Wheatstone, near Leicester, a navy named Wm. Alderman, was buried beneath a fall of earth and was asphyxiated.

The Bishop of Dorking, who shortly proceeded to Tokio as Bishop Avdry's successor, has been presented with an episcopal ring and £100 by many admirers of his work at Dorking.

A married woman named Card, of Sandwich, was scalded to death by upsetting a kettle of boiling water over herself.

Prince Rudolf of Liechtenstein, master of the Emperor of Austria's household, has died aged 71. He was a great sportman, and very popular in English society.

Damage amounting to £3,000 was caused by a fire at the premises of Messrs. Dancer and Andrews, stick manufacturers, in Dufferin-st., St. Luke's, E.C.

It was found at an inquest held at St. Agnes, Cornwall, that an aged widow named Cox had died from strychnine while attempting to commit suicide by strangulation.

Eight elementary schools in Bishop's Stortford have been closed owing to an epidemic of mumps. More than 80 children in one school have been attacked by the illness.

It is reported by the Electric Supply Committee of Marylebone Council that the commission paid to Mr. A. Wright, consulting electrical engineer to the council, on capital expenditure connected with the municipal electric undertaking, now totals £25,000.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE.

Although Mrs. Smith, of Bideford, was pulled down by her hair when a large chimney crashed through the roof of her house, she escaped unharmed. Her hair had to be cut away before she could be extricated.

TURBINES FOR THE NEPTUNE.

The contract for the turbines for the battleship Neptune, to be built at Portsmouth in 1913, and is the oldest member of the college. Surgeon-major Hinton enjoys perfect health, and walks five miles each day for pleasure.

RESTORING THE VICTORY.

Three large ship's lanterns of the same size and pattern as those carried at the battle of Trafalgar have been placed in position at the stern of the Victory at Portsmouth. Other proposals for restoring the Victory are understood to be in abeyance because of the expense which they would entail.

The Rev. W. M. Scott, of Liverpool, has accepted the pastorate of George-st. Congregational Church, Croydon.

The Rev. H. A. M. Wilcox, who had just died at Wiston, Warwick, where he was vicar for 32 years, was originally a farmer.

Prizes of the Cheltenham Pageant are stated to be £1,000, of which £500 is for county charities and the remainder for the unemployed.

Baron Hayking, formerly Russian Consul-General for India, has been appointed Russian Consul-General in London.

Ald. J. Marriott, of Coventry, who has just celebrated his 90th birthday, is Father of the Town Council, on which he has served 48 years.

Mr. W. A. Bowie has been elected chairman of the council of the Ragged School Union and Shaftesbury Society for the coming year.

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A branch of the Capital and Counties Bank at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, has been burned to the ground, together with an ironmonger's and furniture establishment.

The Japanese Government has given £100 to the Strangers' Home for Asylums in the West India Dock-rd., in recognition of the care accorded to Japanese subjects by the home.

Dr. A. Pearce Higgins, lecturer of Clare College, Cambridge, has been appointed lecturer in Public International Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London) in succession to Dr. L. Oppenheim, who has been recently elected Whewell Professor of International Law in the University of Cambridge.

MANY DEATH SENTENCES.

Between Oct. 14 and Nov. 14, 210 death sentences were passed in Russia, and there were 22 executions. The number of death sentences for the past 11 months was 1,691, and there were 633 executions during the same period.

THE OLDEST SURGEON.

The Royal College of Surgeons has sent a congratulatory letter to Surgeon-major H. B. Hinton, of Glenelg, South Australia, who was born at Portsmouth in 1813, and is the oldest member of the college. Surgeon-major Hinton enjoys perfect health, and walks five miles each day for pleasure.

LAUGH AND GROW WELL.

A doctor in Frankfort is prescribing laughter as a cure for nervous diseases. He says sufferers should laugh regularly every day, and warned them that half-hearted measures are useless—they must laugh until the tears run down their cheeks.

CHORUS.

Ring out, sweet bells, your tone sub-lime, The hope-ful song of Christ-mas time!

Give forth the mes - sage far and wide, This kind - ly sea - son of

Yule tide, Of Peace on Earth, Good - will to men!

Mr. R. E. Codrington, the Administrator of N.W. Rhodesia, has died in London.

The City Corporation has made a grant to the funds of the Gordon Hospital for Pidots, etc., Vauxhall Bridge-rd., S.W., of £100.

A novel contribution to a fund, which is being raised in Dulwich for the unemployed, is an offering by a local firm of 1,000 pints of new milk.

The King has conferred upon the 8th (City of London) Bn. the London Regt. the honour of becoming its honorary colonel.

Through a toy motor-car knighting a figure representing Father Christmas against the electric lighting wires a disastrous fire occurred at a draper's shop at Peterborough.

Mr. Thos. Hay, headmaster of Midhurst Grammar School, has been appointed from among 116 applicants as headmaster of Chelmsford Grammar School.

Mr. Jas. Bennett, a member of a popular Co. Limerick family, was thrown from his horse and killed instantly while out riding at a staghunt, near Knockney.

A youth who was informed at Ipswich Police Court that he would be bound over to keep the peace replied that he was going to join the Army.

Among a number of engravings from the collection of Lord Aberhart which were sold by auction was Durer's "Adam and Eve," which fetched £100.

A mechanic named Ed. Anderson was sentenced to two months' hard labour at Rochdale for holding the hands of his six-year-old son before the fire until they were blistered in order to teach the child not to play with fire.

Sir W. Colvin has died in Allahabad at the age of 81. He practised before the High Court of Judicature, Allahabad, and was for five years a member of the Legislative Council of the United Provinces, India. He was a brother of Sir Archibald Colvin.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC.

Wm. Nash was fined £1. at the Marylebone Police Court for expectorating in a train on the Charing Cross and Hampstead tube. This was the first summons of the kind that had been issued.

WANISHING THREEPENNY BIT.

"I do not see so many threepenny bits in the collection plates nowadays," said the Bishop of Salisbury in a sermon at Colchishill. "In the olden days people used to joke about the coin, but I sometimes wish now it was still with us."

TERITORIAL NURSING STAFF.

A committee has been formed at Cambridge to enrol 120 trained nurses, who would come forward in time of emergency to staff the 1st Eastern General Hospital of 800 beds. The staff of physicians and surgeons has already been formed.

NEXT WEEK, "TIS A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE," BY JOHN P. HARRINGTON AND ORLANDO POWELL.

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

This Song may be sung in public without Fee or Licence, except at Theatres or Music Halls. (Copyright.)

For permission to sing apply Musical Editor "The People."

Words by CHRIS DAVIS.

Music by A. J. PHILLIPS.

Piano. *Heartily.*

K. C.

1. Wel - come ev - er, kin and friends, This sea - son of the year,
2. A mes - sage then a - cross the seas We'll send to kith and kind,
3. Then let us with a thank - ful heart A joy - ful chor - us raise,

When those we love the most Are still to us more dear.
To tell them al - tho' a - broad They're still with us in mind.
To him Who saved us all We'll sing a song of praise.

Come, gath - er round the fe - tal board, And wish
We'll give a toast to those dear friends Who long
Then gath - er round the glow - ing log, Let how

with vol - ees gay,
have passed a - way,
And
Re -

F.C.

mer - ry, mer - ry time to one and all Up - on this Christ-mas Day.
drink to them in si - lence and Up - on this Christ-mas Day.
- joice that we have met once more Up - on this Christ-mas Day.

SEASIDE CRIME.

SOUTHPORT MYSTERY SOLVED.

STRANGE INQUEST STORY.

The double inquest was concluded on Mrs. Dorothy Oliver, or Allen, 39, who was found shot in her house at 6, Alexandra-rd., Southport, and 117, Theo. Jackson, 34, who was discovered dead in his house at Stanley-st., Southport, four days afterwards, from the effects of strichine poisoning. The jury finding that Jackson was responsible for the wilful murder of the woman, and that Jackson feloniously killed himself.—Inq. Wignall stated that on the Saturday after Jackson had been found dead, Mrs. Rimmer, his landlady, sent for him and said: "I want to confess that I did tell one untruth to you last night. Mr. Jackson was out last Sunday night. He went out about nine o'clock, and did not come in again till next morning, between nine and ten o'clock. Last night, when he came in, he said to me in the kitchen, 'If they ask you have I been out, tell them no, except shopping.' Since then (the police) left this afternoon I went to the sideboard in the parlour to get some pears. When I opened the door I saw a box there, but it does not belong to me. I have not seen it before. I thought I had better send for you."

WHAT THE POLICE FOUND.

She said she did not touch the box, continued witness. From inquiries, he believed Jackson had access to Mrs. Rimmer's parlour. Witness then searched the sideboard, and found a cardboard box there, a few furs, and a six-chambered revolver, each barrel containing cartridges, four of which had been discharged, and on the barrel of which were stains of what appeared to be blood. He also found a brooch-case and numerous articles of jewellery, which had been identified as having belonged to Mrs. Allen. He discovered a box containing 18 cartridges corresponding to those found in the revolver. He also found a linen bag which Mrs. Allen used to wear suspended round her neck, and in which she put some of her jewellery.—In reply to the foreman of the jury, witness said he did not suggest the absence of Jackson on the Friday night.—Foreman: Did the responsibility rest with you or with your superior officer? I presume at the time that Inq. Bower, my senior officer, should suggest whether or not he would be arrested.—Coroner (to the foreman): You wish to put it in this way—that the jury think, from the evidence in possession of the police at that time, that Jackson should have been arrested. (To witness) What have you to say to that?—Foreman: We may have an opportunity of saying that afterwards. (Heav. roar).—Witness: Had we known a fifth part then of what we know now there is no doubt Jackson would have been arrested. I was not going to oppose Inq. Bower's suggestion that he should have been left alone.

GAVE EVERY ASSISTANCE.

Inq. Clarke also stated that he had a conversation with Mrs. Rimmer on the Saturday afternoon after the finding of the body of Jackson. Mrs. Rimmer told him that Jackson was not out on the previous Sunday, but remained in his room all day, only coming down for meals. She said if Jackson went out on the Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday he did so without her knowledge. Jackson, she added, had not told her he had paid any money to any person during the week, nor that he sold any articles of jewellery on the Monday morning.—Inq. Bower: Mrs. Rimmer seemed upset while she was making her statement.—Inq. Bower gave an account of a conversation he had with Mrs. Rimmer. She told him that she owed £16 for rent to the landlord. Jackson owed her £11 for rent, and she handed him £5 10s., he promising to make up the balance of the £16 and pay the landlord. This was about the second week in November, but Jackson did not produce the receipt till Nov. 24.—Capt. Armstrong: On the question of the arrest of Jackson on the Friday night, witness stated that the identification of the landlady at that time was doubtful. Jackson gave every assistance to the police, and the police knew of another person who might have a strong motive for getting rid of Mrs. Oliver. He was of opinion then that Jackson should not have been arrested, and still remained of that opinion.—Coroner: If Mrs. Rimmer had told the truth about Jackson he would have been arrested at once.

GIDDING THE Ledger.

—Mrs. Rimmer, in the witness-box, related the details of the money transactions she had with Jackson about the rent. She said she did not know that the receipt was dated Nov. 23 till a week had passed, and that was the reason why she did not tell the police of that transaction till afterwards.—Coroner: This court does not want to be hard on you, but, tell us, do you know whether he went out or not on the Sunday night? Yes, he said to me, "I am going to my cousin's. It is rather late. If I am not back by a quarter to ten I shall not be back to-night." At half-past ten, when I locked the door, he was not back, and he did not return till about ten o'clock the Monday morning, when I saw him returning at the yard.—Why did you not tell that to the police? It is part of my duty as a landlady to oblige a lodger. (Loud laughter).—Coroner: When I write a text-book on the law of landlady and tenant one of the first maxims will be, "The landlady must oblige the lodger." (Re-echoed laughter).—By Capt. Armstrong: When the police were searching the house she did not connect Jackson with the murder, but thought they wanted him as a witness.—After an absence of three-quarters of an hour the jury returned with a verdict of wilful murder of Mrs. Allen against Jackson, and they found that he feloniously killed himself. They further stated that, considering the adverse criticism levelled at the police in this case by the public at large, they would like to disassociate themselves from such views, and to express the opinion that the action of the police in not arresting Jackson was justifiable, and that Mrs. Rimmer was deserving of severe censure for frustrating their efforts.

GORING TRAGEDY.

SUICIDE OF A YOUNG WIDOW.

A sad tragedy has disturbed the serenity of Goring, a quiet residential village on the banks of the Thames, near Reading. At Littlecroft, one of the pretty villas of the village, there lived a Mrs. Nina Katherine Garland Stuart, 38 years of age, whose husband, a captain in the Royal Navy, 60 years of age, died in July last. The only child of the marriage, a little girl, is at a boarding school at Brighton, and since her bereavement the young widow, who lived alone, has from time to time been subject to fits of depression. But latterly those associated with her thought her greatly improved in health and spirits. The news of her death, the result of a bullet wound in the head, apparently self-inflicted, came therefore as a great shock and surprise to her relatives and friends. Details of the tragedy came out at the inquest.—A younger brother of deceased lady, Mr. Charles Edward Montgomery Whyte, of Battersea, who, along with a cousin, Miss Lena Whyte, also of London, spent the week-end at the villa, narrated the story. When they came down on Saturday afternoon (he said) he found Mrs. Stuart in perfectly good health and spirits, and they all spent a pleasant evening together.

EXPRESSMENTS IN THE GARDEN.

"On Sunday morning—the tragedy occurred on Sunday afternoon—my sister came down to breakfast in very high spirits. She had been engaged for some days past in writing, or rather in reading, a play which ended with a duel and the death of one of the principals. But she told us she wanted to alter it in such a way as to avoid this fatal dénouement. As soon as she came down she said, 'Let me settle which way the play shall end.' In the original play one of the duellists took the charge out of his revolver and then demanded to exchange weapons with his opponent. Of course, she was not conversant

SOCIETY BRAWL.

REMARKABLE SCENE IN THE WEST-END.

DRAWING-ROOM FIGHT.

A remarkable struggle between society women in a West-End drawing-room was described at Marlborough-st., when Mrs. Lavinia Taylor, of St. James's-court, Buckingham Gate, was summoned for assaulting Mrs. Mabel Louise Atherton, of Norfolk-st., Park-lane.—Mrs. Atherton is the divorced wife of Col. Atherton, C.B., in December last she brought an action for breach of promise against

MRS. ATHERTON.
[Photo, Barnett.]

the Hon. John Yarde-Buller, son and heir of Lord Charlton, who had married Miss Dennis Orme, the actress. As she did not ask for damages, judgment was entered for her £100 costs.—Mr. Fiske Palmer, who represented her in court, explained the position by stating that Mrs. Taylor was an American, and the mother of a Mrs. Stirling. Certain divorce proceedings were being begun, he said, and petitions had been launched on both sides within a few days. "Within the past three weeks Mrs. Taylor has been constantly seen near and opposite Mrs. Atherton's house," he continued. "The servants saw her looking in at the dining-room window, and could not understand why she was watching the place. After Mrs. Atherton had returned from a motor ride, Mrs. Taylor called. She gave no name to the servants, but was eventually shown into the drawing-room, and Mrs. Atherton came down to see her.

"A Delicate Question."—Mrs. Taylor said she had called to ask a delicate question, and put the question, "Does Mrs. Stirling drink?"—Mrs. Atherton, who was very surprised, replied, "I know nothing about Mrs. Stirling." Then Mrs. Taylor said, "I am a friend of hers, and particularly want to know if it is true."—Mrs. Atherton answered, "You had better go to Mrs. Stirling or her relations and find out."—Mrs. Taylor retorted, "If you are going to tell that attitude I will tell you who I am. I am the mother of Mrs. Stirling, and I have come to spoil your beauty. You are a dirty—." With that she jumped from the chair on which she was sitting, put her fingers round Mrs. Atherton's throat, and did her best to choke her. Mrs. Atherton tried to get her fingers off.

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DIVORCE COURT STORIES.

FAMILY JARS.

STOCK JOBBER AND HIS WIFE.

CHARGES OF CRUELTY.

Mrs. Helena Jane Bond asked for a judicial separation from her husband, Mr. Wm. Eleazar Bond, a Stock Exchange jobber. Respondent appeared in person to defend, and put in an answer denying the charge of cruelty.—Mr. Bayford, for petitioner, stated that the parties were married on July 3, 1900, at Wakefield Cathedral. Petitioner's father, a mining engineer, made a settlement on his daughter, amounting to £7,000, the day before the marriage. The property was settled on her for life, and afterwards to her children. The husband brought nothing into the settlement, except some furniture. He carried on business as a jobber on the Stock Exchange, and after the marriage he and his wife went to live at Twickenham. He was

Always Wanting Money

from her, and in 1901 and the early part of 1902 she advanced him sums amounting to £1,200, which he said he required for the purpose of his business. In the summer of 1902 she was warned by her trustee that she must not expect so much interest as was received on her money, which was invested in a colliery where there had been a strike. She had to refuse a request for money made by her husband in November, 1902, and from that time his conduct towards her changed. He was frequently angry with her because she would not give him money. Although there was not a series of acts of physical violence on the part of the husband, when the jury had heard the wife's story they would, no doubt, consider he was guilty of conduct which amounted to cruelty. On one occasion, it was alleged, he threw

A Can of Hot Water

over her. He also threw the can, but, fortunately, it missed aim. In 1904 they went to live at Ilfracombe, where his conduct, it was alleged, got worse. Because she refused to give him money, he cursed and said he was sorry he had ever married her. She tried to continue to live with him, and in her letters she had refrained from reproaching him in any way. In May, 1905, when she was in a delicate state of health, he dismissed a servant, abused his wife, and said he hated her. In 1906, she was caused considerable anxiety. The husband had £200 left to him in trust for the benefit of a relative, and as it had not been so applied, the wife decided to save money and pay that sum back. That made him very angry. When she was ill and wanted a doctor he said he would not have him, remarking, "What do you want that man for? I won't have him here. What is he coming here for?" That irritation very much affected her. The question of a deed of separation was considered, and the wife wrote on Nov. 29, 1907—

Coal House, Hatch End.

As you will agree I am obliged to leave this house and take the children with me to my father. After the cruel way you have treated me I cannot dare not live with you any longer, and I intend to apply for a judicial separation as soon as possible. I have forgiven you many times, and tried my best to make you a good wife, but you have made things unbearable for me.

(Signed)—HELENA JANE BOND.

The Who's Evidence.

Petitioner, in the course of her evidence, stated that her husband had complained that she had a banking account at Wakefield. He promised her £1 per cent. on the money he borrowed, but she never received either principal or interest. When her mother offered to buy an overmantel he said he would have "no interference by my mother. She was an interfering old woman, and had very bad taste." He had accused witness of being an idiot, a fool, and incapable of managing the house. He said her family were a low-bred lot, and her father was "an interfering, money-grabbing old scoundrel." He called her "a miserable, miserly, bound," and a "despicable worm." She attributed the conduct of her husband to the fact that she refused to lend him money. On Dec. 22, 1907, respondent wrote to her—

A Divorce Decreed.

On July 8, 1907, it was proved that the husband had committed adultery, and subsequently Mrs. Harriman petitioned for a divorce on that ground and also desertion. Justice Buckland, however, feeling himself bound by two previous decisions of the President of the Divorce Division, declined to dissolve the marriage. The effect of this decision, and consequently the obtaining of a matrimonial order under the Act of 1857 brought the despatch of the husband to an end from that date, and therefore precluded Mrs. Harriman from obtaining a divorce. The magistrate's order was, therefore, in effect a license to the husband to commit misconduct for the rest of his life, and the wife would never be able to divorce him.

Hard for the Poor.

—Lord Justice Moulton said that if this decision stood it would make the law very hard for the poor.—Mr. Emery: It really makes one law for the rich and another for the poor.—Sir W. Robson (Attorney-General), on behalf of the King's Procurator, said the real point was: Did the Act of 1857 intend to alter the meaning of the word "desertion"? The word "desertion," he said, implied absence against the will of the person deserted. In this case the desertion upon which the suit for divorce was based was not against the will of the wife.—Lord Justice Moulton said he thought that the question raised was one of the gravest social importance.—Having further heard the Attorney-General, the Master of the Rolls said that he and his learned brother, the Queen's Procurator, were being impressed by the great importance of the case, considered that it ought to be argued before the Full Court of Appeal (consisting of six judges), and it was arranged that the Attorney-General should apply later on for a date for the hearing of the arguments.

WIFE'S ELOPEMENT.

Mr. Wm. H. Stanley, of Shipton, near Nottingham, petitioned for a divorce on the ground that his wife had eloped with a man whom it was

his wife, Evelyn Hannah Stanley, with Geo. Horton, otherwise Burton.—The evidence was to the effect that Mrs. Stanley left her husband, and was subsequently discovered living with co-respondent at Nottingham, and later at Leicester. An ex-police officer said that when in company with petitioner, he served co-respondent with the divorce papers, the man remarked, "It's all right. I shall be glad when it is over. I shall then marry Mrs. Stanley." Turning to petitioner, he said, "I am sorry for you, Mr. Stanley, but if I had not gone away with her someone else would."—A decree nisi, with costs against co-respondent was granted.

NEW YORK SUIT.

UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A LONDONER.

In our issue of Nov. 3, 1907, a report of a divorce suit in the Supreme Court of New York was published in which Mrs. Ida Elizabeth Ensign asked for a separation from her husband, Mr. H. A. Ensign, on the ground of his cruelty. The husband retaliated by claiming a divorce and joined Mr. H. R. Pope, of London, as co-respondent. The charges made by the husband came on for hearing on Oct. 31, 1907. The report published by us contained allegations damaging to Mr. Pope, which we are now satisfied were unfounded, and particularly a statement that Mr. Ensign imputed misconduct to Mr. Pope during a trip to Switzerland. The latter statement was never made in the proceedings. From information since obtained by us from America, we have ascertained that Mr. Ensign did not put in any appearance at the trial, and that he did not attempt to support any of the allegations and charges made by him against Mr. Pope or against Mrs. Ensign, and the jury returned a verdict exonerating them. We gladly make this correction and deeply regret that we published a report containing statements which we find on inquiry were not justified.

A LIVING PICTURE.

HOW IT BETRAYED A WIFE'S INFIDELITY.

An action for divorce is pending in Budapest which had its origin in a cinematograph theatre there. The petitioner, Herr Joachim Barrer, a manufacturer, was in the theatre watching a series of living pictures when he recognised his wife, who was portrayed sitting in a garden and being kissed by a strange man. The husband made inquiries, and discovered that the picture was taken at Carlsbad last summer. Herr Barrer's wife was on holiday there at the time. He taxed her with deceiving him, and she confessed, with the result that the husband has entered an action for divorce.

SOAP WAR LITIGATION.

MESSRS. LEVER BROS. WANT MORE DAMAGES.

The action for libel brought by Messrs. Lever Bros., soap manufacturers, against "The Leeds and Yorkshire Mercury," at the Liverpool Assizes, resulted in a verdict for £500 and costs. Subsequently Sir Edward Carson made two important statements with respect to the case. He stated in the first place that his clients, Messrs. Lever Bros., would appeal against the verdict for £500, which he desired to say, rightly or wrongly, they thought was entirely incomparable with the amount of the damage they had sustained. Also being anxious to question the facts, submitted to the jury that the damages given in the previous cases were given under an understanding in relation to the whole litigation—of which, he thought, there was no evidence—they desired to take that case to the Court of Appeal on the question of damages and on the point he had mentioned.

OTHER ACTIONS DROPPED.

Under these circumstances, Sir Edward said, he would withdraw the records in two other cases which were on the list for hearing against the Amalgamated Press (Ltd.) ("Answers" and "The Union Jack") and the Associated Newspapers (Ltd.) ("The Weekly Dispatch").—That is as regards the two cases," said Mr. Rufus Isaacs, for the other side. "Do we understand that under any circumstances there is an end to these two by the withdrawal of the record?"—Sir Edward Carson replied, "Yes."—Justice Coleridge concurred to this course of action.

DOCKYARD THEFTS.

REPORT OF THE ADMIRALTY COMMITTEE.

In connection with the extensive thefts of old metal from Chatham Dockyard, the Admiralty appointed a committee to inquire into the circumstances which made it possible for the material to be taken from the establishment. The Admiralty have now issued a letter, which states that the committee's report makes it clear that the thefts were rendered possible by the following circumstances:—

(a) The absence of proper police supervision during the early hours of the morning.

(b) The ease with which the workers, guilty of the thefts, were able to obtain leave of absence, to secure the use of cars, and to take other measures necessary for the removal of the metal.

(c) The laxity with which storage places were supervised, both in the professional and in the naval store departments.

(d) The carelessness with which vouchers in support of returned stores were made out and afterwards dealt with.

(e) The practice in the professional departments of allowing large quantities of old metal to accumulate, and of returning old metal in an unsorted condition.

ACTRESS'S EARNINGS.

At Bradford, Miss Ada Reeve, of the Apollo Theatre, London, was sued for £25 10s. balance of an account. Miss Ada Reeve bought £76 worth of costumes from Miss. Neal during a visit to Bradford, and had deducted 3 per cent. from the account. This amount was now in dispute. Judgment had been given by default, but Mr. Maurice Gaunt applied for a new trial, on the ground that the summons had not been served. Miss Reeve was willing to pay if convinced she owed the money, because she earned £10,000 yearly.—The application was granted.

JUDGES AND LAW OFFICIALS.

See "The People's Year Book, 1908, 15th edn. Newsgangs, Post free 1/-

AMAZING ROBBERY.

"CAPTAIN" DUPES OWNER OF COUNTRY HOUSE.

A daring robbery by an accomplished and gentlemanly swindler is engaging the attention of the Peterborough police. The story opens one morning when a well-groomed and well-set-up man of military appearance drove up to Werrington Hall, near Peterborough, and asked for the lady owner, who had advertised the house and estate for sale. He stated that he was in search of a hunting-box, and he thought Werrington Hall would suit him. He was shown over the place, expressed himself as very well pleased with it, and announced that he had decided to purchase it. The references he produced were satisfactory, and appeared quite authentic. Moreover, the agreeable stranger stated that he was prepared to pay over a substantial sum as a deposit in the course of a few days.

A Suspicious Incident.

In the meantime he begged that he might be allowed to stay at the hall as he desired to instal himself at the earliest possible moment with his servants and hunters, and wished to personally supervise the painting, papering, etc., which he desired to have done. The request was readily acceded to. The "captain" took up his quarters at the hall, proceeding at once to hire a motor-car in Peterborough, and to give extensive orders to local tradesmen. How well the "captain" played his part (like the more celebrated "captain" of Keppeney) may be judged from the fact that not the slightest suspicion of his bona-fides was aroused. Two mornings later, however, a significant incident occurred. One of the daughters of the house, passing a bed-room, saw the "captain" on the threshold. He excused himself politely, explaining that he had made a mistake, not knowing the house very well, and nothing more was thought of the matter.

The "Captain's" Departure.

A little later the "captain" called his motor-car, entered it, and drove off, stating that he would return in the course of the day. When some distance along the road to Peterborough he stopped the car, got out, told the chauffeur he had some calls to make, and ordered him to meet him at Boston. The chauffeur was at the appointed place; but no "captain" appeared, and after waiting some time he returned to the house. In the meantime the startling discovery had been made that a quantity of jewellery had been stolen from the bedroom, in which the guest was sleeping. There are missing the following:—

Gold watch and chain.

Pearl and turquoise brooch set in gold.

Gold brooch set with single pearl.

Gold pendant and chain set with precious stones.

Two dress rings, one set with pearls and the other with corals.

South African double lion claw brooch.

Gold brooch, and a number of other trinkets.

The police were at once communicated with, but they have so far failed to trace the "captain" or the jewels. The missing man is described as about 33 years of age, with polished manners and of distinguished appearance.

A HERO AT THIRTEEN.

SCHOOLBOY WHO SAVED A CHILD FROM DROWNING.

Harry Chester, a pupil from the Hornsey Borough Council's North Harringay school, is only 13 years of age, but he has already distinguished himself by an act of rare courage.

BROTHER'S CALLANTRY.

JUMPED INTO A TANK OF HOT WATER AND OIL.

The King, at the last investiture at Buckingham Palace, decorated Alfred Hunt with the Albert Medal (second class) for an act of gallantry which is described as follows in the "Court Circular":—

Two brothers named Robert and Alfred Hunt were employed on August 7 at Messrs. Johnson Brothers' pottery, at Tunstall, in cleaning out a tank containing 10,000 gallons of oil. The tank was about 15 ft. 6 in. in depth. At 10 ft. 6 in. Robert Hunt, while bending over the opening, fell in, and was badly scalded, and subsequently died. Alfred Hunt, who was working near him at the time, and heard him cry out immediately jumped in and successfully pulled him out, although he knew that the water must be very hot, if not actually boiling at the time. He was badly scalded.

The affair was reported in "The People" at the time.

INJURED WORKMAN.

IMPORTANT COMPENSATION CASE AT MARPLEBONE.

A case which occupied a considerable time, and gave rise to much argument, came before Sir William Selfe and a jury at Marylebone County Court. It was an action under the Employers' Liability Act, in which Benjamin Rockford, a labourer, sought to recover damages for personal injuries from Messrs. McEvitt and Price, biscuit manufacturers of Harlesden. On June 30 last a man named Lowman called on defendants for work, and was told that he might undertake the unloading of a barge of sacks of flour. He engaged five other men to assist in the work, one of them being plaintiff, who, in consequence of a plank tipping up, fell on the pavement, and received injury to his legs, which necessitated his remaining in bed for a month. Lowman, on undertaking the work, was paid £5. by defendants, and this he divided equally among the men whom he engaged.—The principal defence raised was that plaintiff was a casual labourer, and not by defendants.—The jury found in favour of plaintiff, and assessed the damages at £15 and costs.

THE WITNESS SCORED.

At the Central Criminal Court, before Judge Bentoni, Jno. Lee, 31, a policeman, pleaded not guilty of feloniously wounding Alexander Sutton, land a commission agent, of Finsbury Road-buildings, at Gerrard's-Soho.—Mr. Burns (cross-examining prosecutor): You have had 18 months leave for the other side.

(a) The laxity with which storage places were supervised, both in the professional and in the naval store departments.

(b) The carelessness with which vouchers in support of returned stores were made out and afterwards dealt with.

(c) The practice in the professional departments of allowing large quantities of old metal to accumulate, and of returning old metal in an unsorted condition.

ACTRESS'S EARNINGS.

At Bradford, Miss Ada Reeve, of the Apollo Theatre, London, was sued for £25 10s. balance of an account. Miss Ada Reeve bought £76 worth of costumes from Miss. Neal during a visit to Bradford, and had deducted 3 per cent. from the account. This amount was now in dispute. Judgment had been given by default, but Mr. Maurice Gaunt applied for a new trial, on the ground that the summons had not been served. Miss Reeve was willing to pay if convinced she owed the money, because she earned £10,000 yearly.—The application was granted.

SEQUEL TO DIVORCE.

A sequel to divorce proceedings was heard at Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, in a case in which Mr. Vivian Robinson, of Neville House, Farnsfield, was charged with wounding Wm. Arthur Holmes, leather merchant, King's-Winford. When motorising near King's-Winford, complainant was signalled to stop by defendant, who afterwards assaulted him.—Counsel for defendant admitted an assault, which sprang out of recent divorce proceedings. Holmes was the co-respondent, and a decree nisi was granted. Respondent was a sister to defendant who was justified in resenting the wrong done.—The stipendiary said, however, as the result of divorce proceedings, did not justify assault.

LOVERS' COMPACT.

SEQUEL TO A DOUBLE LIFE.

The mystery as to the identity of the man who, as already announced in "The People," murdered Miss Elsie Gertrude Hitchcock, of Forest Gate, at the Hotel Curzon, Brighton, and then committed suicide, was cleared up at the resumed inquest. The letters which had been written by the couple, and which were read at the opening of the inquest, showed that the young man and young woman were devotedly fond of each other, and that they had agreed to die together; while the message from the man, who signed himself "H. C. R.," to the coroner, that it was a case of "murder of the woman with her consent and wish, and deliberate suicide on the part of the man," speaks for itself.—The coroner said the facts were as recently before the jury that he did not propose to have the evidence of the previous occasion read over. Further evidence had now been obtained, and would be called before the coroner.

SLUM TRAGEDY.

A SORDID STORY OF CRIME.

A sordid story of a woman's wretched death was told at Gidea Park, Essex, when Jas. Hurley and Danl. Donovan were charged with the wilful murder of Elizabeth Brown, or Graddell, at Cardiff.—In opening the case, Mr. Hill Kelly said prisoners, who were charged with wilful murder, and also the dead woman, belonged to that class of people who were always found in a great seaport centre like Cardiff. Deceased lived in a house called 10, Old Barracks, leading out of Bridge-street, and the house was used for the purpose of letting rooms to women. The jury would consider the arrangements of the rooms on the ground floor and on the first floor. At half past one on the afternoon in question, said the learned counsel, four people visited the house, namely, two women, named Catherine Crowley and Beatrice Heath, and two men, one named Hayes and the other John Donovan, a nephew of the prisoner Donovan. The four were admitted by deceased, and all five went to the kitchen together. They sat there for about an hour, and next proceeded to the back parlour. Presently the two prisoners came in, and sat till 8.30.

A Woman's Discovery.

Then the four visitors departed, and prisoners were left alone with the woman in the kitchen. The others afterwards returned, and were let in by the deceased woman, the prisoners being still there. Four of the people went upstairs. Hayes and Crowley went into the back bedroom, and Donovan and Heath into the other room. Prisoner Hurley at 8.30 opened the door and let in Catherine Fury. He lighted a lamp, and Fury saw deceased woman lying on the floor with her skirts drawn up over her head. She thought she heard her snoring, and tried to draw down her skirts, but Hurley put out the light and said, "I will do the same to you." Fury again lit the lamp, and again it was put out. She then left the house to buy candles, and on her return went to the bedroom where Hayes was. Hayes objected, and she returned downstairs, where she saw deceased. On the stairs she saw the two prisoners carrying deceased upstairs, and she afterwards saw the woman lying in a pool of blood, and the two prisoners standing by her. One of them struck her in the face, and then Fury went for the police. Deceased was unconscious, and her clothes were saturated with blood.

A Terrible Wound

"IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARK.

Saturday Afternoon.

There is very little but idleness and dullness in the Stock Markets, and until the festive season is out of the way no improvement is looked for. All things considered, the gilt-edged section holds its own very well, although Consols are a trifle easier, and the tendency of Home Railways is towards higher values. Operators are acting with caution in the American market, where prices have had a relapse, and will, it is feared, recede further. In the industrial market Anglo "A" Telegraph Stocks have been weak on rumours of a decreased dividend next month and the prospects of increased competition.

DE BEERS DEPRESSED.

There is very little business passing in the mining markets, which are inclined to sag. Kaffirs are mostly easier, and until the end of the year options are declared on the 23rd inst. there is not much prospect of a recovery, although a large number of very good dividends have been announced. A feature has been the extreme weakness of De Beers, owing to a continuance of Continental sales. So heavy has been the liquidation that at one time the shares fell to 10/- 7s. It is now recognised that the company's position has suffered enormously owing to the depression in the diamond trade, and it is impossible to predict what an improvement is likely to occur. Copper shares are generally lower, owing to the reduced price of the metal, and Rio Tinto has fluctuated considerably.

TO-DAY'S DIVIDENDS.

Among the dividends announced today are some splendid ones by various South African mining companies, including the Robinson with an interim distribution of 15 per cent. (15s. per 25 share), as against 14 per cent. for the corresponding period of last year; the Modderfontein, with 7s. per cent. interim (or 8s. per 25 share), in contrast with 5 per cent. the Ferreira, which repeats the 150 per cent. (30s. per share) distribution of a year ago; the Durban-Roodepoort Deep, which enters the list with a 5 per cent. dividend; East Rand Proprietary Mines, 20 per cent. (4s. per share) for the half-year ending Dec. 31; Liverpool Law Association, an interim dividend of 4d. per share; the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation, third quarterly interim dividend in respect of 1908 of 5s. per share; the United National Collieries, a further interim distribution of 10s. per share; the Cobalt Central Mines, 2 per cent.; the British Steamship Investment Trust, interim dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, and 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock; the Assam Railways and Trading Co., 6s. per share on account of arrears on the preferred "A" shares, 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the preference shares, and 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the New Six Per Cent. preference shares; Louisville and Nashville Railroad, semi-annual cash dividend of 2½ per cent. on the capital stock; and the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance, 8s. per share for the half-year.

RAND AMALGAMATION.

I hear on excellent authority that another amalgamation of important mining interests in the Rand is on the cards, and will shortly be announced. The companies involved are the Ferreira Gold Mining Co. and the Ferreira Deep. Both are splendid mines and are dividend payers, the former having returned its original capital to the shareholders a great many times over. It is understood that the basis of the fusion will be

approximately 2s. Ferreira Deep shares and 5s. in cash for each Ferreira G.M. Co.'s share. Experience on the Rand has conclusively demonstrated that large mining propositions can be more economically worked than small ones.

RAILWAY TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The publication of the details of the working agreement between the Great Northern, Great Central and Great Eastern Railways had a favourable effect on the stocks of these companies, all of which were put higher. It appears from the particulars that the arrangement is, to all intents and purposes, to be an absolute fusion. The capital accounts of the various companies remain as they are, and funds will be divided in various portions and allocated by each company to its respective stock holders, according to its obligation. Each company, as an undertaking, will, therefore, have its separate existence, but otherwise they will form, for all practical purposes, one concern managed by a joint committee of 37 members. The rights of debenture-holders are fully maintained. North London Railway stock showed a point on the approval by the London and North-Western meeting of the arrangement by which that company is to lease the North London for a period of 21 years.

RAND MINES DIVIDEND.

The Kaffir market is not satisfied with the Rand Mines dividend of 5s. per share, which is equivalent to a distribution of 100 per cent. so it knocked a fraction of the shares at 7s. 15d. Previous estimates placed the dividend at 5s. 6d. or 6s., hence the market's disappointment. The dividend is really a good one, bringing the total distribution for the year up to 9s. 6d. per 25 share, and there have been several others of late which should stimulate rather than depress Kaffirs. For the six months ending 31st inst. the Robinson Central Deep announces 10s. per share (50 per cent.).

"SHELL" TRANSPORT DIVIDEND.

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Co. announces a second interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary share, making, with the first distribution of similar amount, 10 per cent. on account of the current year's earnings. When the annual report is issued in the summer, the final dividend for the year is usually declared. The shares eased to 4s. when the second interim dividend was declared, though why they should have been beyond comprehension, seeing that the first two payments of 1907 were for the same amount—10 per cent. It does not seem unreasonable in the circumstances to assume that the company has done quite as well this year as it did last.

MUSHROOM GROWING.

Subscribers have been invited this week for a new venture, entitled Johnsons (Ltd.), with a capital of £50,000. It is formed to take over a mushroom-growing business which had been carried on by a company of the same name at Twyford Abbey, near Willesden; to extend it and add the business of general market gardeners. No figures as to past profits are supplied, but it is forecasted of future prosperity that the directors have made "a special and exhaustive study of the whole question" of intensive cultivations, and of their association with other ventures of a similar character counts in that respect they certainly have done so. Practical people, however, will probably be more inclined to ask whether they have made an equally exhaustive study of the cultivation of profits from mushroom growing and general market gardening.

SMALLER DISTRIBUTION.

A dividend of 8s. per share is announced by the directors of the Canada Co. in respect of the current half-year. A year ago the distribution was 3s. more. Adding the 8s. the total dividend for the current twelve months is 28s. per share, or 140 per cent. comparing with 38s. per share, or 180 per cent. in 1907. This is the smallest distribution for the December six months since 1896, when the return was 7s. per share, and the annual payment is the lowest since 1897, when the dividend was 25s. per share, or 125 per cent. With a return of better times in the Dominion, the Canada Co. should have a more prosperous period in 1908.

CHAT ON 'CHANGE'**READ CAREFULLY PAGE 46**

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